

Hafa Adai!

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'Impeachment talks' self-serving

» **Torres administration reiterates innocence**

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Describing it as "political posturing," a key official of the Torres administration believes impeachment talks stirred by a member of the House of Representatives last Monday was nothing more than self-serving talk.



Demapan

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' chief of staff, Angel Demapan, yesterday told *Saipan Tribune* that impeachment talks at this time are self-serving after being asked to

comment on a statement from
See IMPEACHMENT
on Page 4

DMS holds half-day sessions due to electrical issues

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

Dandan Middle School prin-

cipal James DLG Sablan is hopeful that classes will return to normal in a matter of weeks. In an interview with

Sablan, he said the school started holding half-day sessions since Tuesday due to an ongoing issue with the

school's power system.

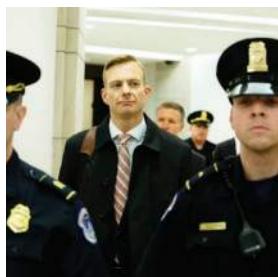
He said based on the Public School System and the Com-

See DMS on Page 4



Crewmembers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. work on a power pole at Dandan Middle School yesterday. DMS is currently holding half-day sessions due to issues on the school's transformer and its power system.

INSIDE



NATION

The phone call State Department official David Holmes overheard between President Donald Trump and Ambassador Gordon Sondland won't be easily forgotten.

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FOCUS

One of only four oar makers for Venice's famed gondoliers, Paolo Brandolisi wades through his ground-floor workshop for the third time in a week of record-breaking floods.

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LIFE & STYLE

Director Marielle Heller frames "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" as if it were an episode of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."

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other matter pending in the District Court.

Sua sponte order refers to a judge's action made without a request by any party to the case.

Manglona said the second exhibit shall be sealed until otherwise ordered by the court pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because it is a sealed document from an-

See JUDGE on Page 4

IN FBI PROBE AGAINST TORRES, OTHERS Judge seals 2 documents, unseals 1

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday ordered the sealing of two documents pertaining to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's probe against Gov. Ralph DLG

Torres, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, and others.

In a *sua sponte* order, Manglona said the first exhibit shall be sealed until otherwise ordered by the court pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because it is a sealed document from an-

See JUDGE on Page 4

'Austerity Fridays saved \$500K per pay period'



IVA MAURIN

Finance Secretary David Atalig talks about cashflows and austerity at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary David Atalig said the implementation of austerity Fridays saved the government close to \$500,000 per pay period.

Speaking during yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency

Saipan in Garapan, Atalig said the CNMI will see its last austerity Friday this week, on Nov. 22, with the 80-hour work schedule resuming Nov. 24, Monday, following the issuance of Directive 2020-001.

"I support the lifting of austerity for payroll purposes," Atalig said.

See AUSTERITY on Page 4

Local

AS POWER ENGINE NO. 5 HAS SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE

CUC loses power reserve, seeks help from hotels

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is requesting about eight hotels, including Imperial Pacific Resort, to self-generate electric power at their establishments during peak hours as needed, as power engine No. 5 at CUC's Power Plant 1 in Lower Base has some serious damage.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said yesterday that engine No. 5, which produces 11 megawatts of power supply, experienced a failure last Saturday night, causing an outage in some areas on Saipan.

Camacho said an action plan has been put together to address the issue with engine No. 5 and CUC's limited power capacity.

He said their power generation crews and the management are putting something together to get everything back to normal as soon as possible.

Asked if residents should expect more outages, Camacho

said as long as the power engines continue to be fine until they are overhauled with the next few months, he believes the island will be good unless something occurs.

Camacho



As of now, the executive director said, CUC almost does not have reserve power capacity that's why they need to work with the hotels and also considering bringing in the emergency reserve power of approximately 15 megawatts.

Some hotels have their own engines to self-generate power supply.

Camacho said what happened last Saturday night was that when engine No. 5 experienced a failure and there was an outage, power plant 1 operators turned off feeders 4, 7, and Kiya 2 because of the amount of load the engine was carrying.

He said affected by the power outage that night for a period of time was the northern part of the island, then

Capital Hill, Kagman, As Teo, As Lito, Koblerville, and San Antonio.

Camacho said the outage lasted for an hour and 20 minutes at some areas, and about two hours in Kiya 2 areas such as As Lito, portion of Finasisu, San Antonio, Koblerville, and a portion of Chalan Kanoa.

Camacho said upon further inspection it turns out that engine No. 5 has some serious damage and is going to require extensive repairs.

"This reduces our reserve capacity by 11 megawatts. And we are critically low and barely have any reserves at this time," he said.

Camacho said he and their key staff met with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last Monday and yesterday to resolve the problem.

Camacho said they are reducing the power demand of the power plant by coordinating and communicating with large hotels.

He said they like to take the hotels out from power during peak loads for a period of time.

Camacho also disclosed that a technical engineer from one of the two manufacturers of the engine unit will be arriving this morning, Wednesday.

Camacho said the idea is to get power engine No. 6 back on line soon to replace the 11 megawatts produced by power engine No. 5.

He said on top of that, they like to do the overhauls that have been deferred on power engines Nos. 5 and 7.

Camacho said they are at discussions to ensure that

CUC has reserve capacity during the repair period.

Camacho said the hotels are fine with such arrangement as they understand the situation.

He said hotels will not be off consistently but only two to three hours depending on the power demands during peak and as CUC needs.

"Sometimes we need more, sometimes we need less. We're coordinating with the schedule with the hotels," he said.

With respect to Imperial Pacific Resort, Camacho said, they have not officially confirmed anything, but that they

would like for the establishment to help if they could, along with other hotels.

Camacho said CUC has been working with large hotels with such arrangement for many years anyway.

With respect to engines Nos. 5 and 7, Camacho said they are going to advertise quickly or ask to declare an emergency for major overhaul and repair of the damage.

He said there will be a contractor to come in and do the major overhaul along with some of CUC mechanical staff so they can continue to develop their skills.

CHCC working with CUC to resolve \$32M debt

By MARC A. VENUS
marc.venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is aware of its debt with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and is looking into ways to resolve this matter. In an email interview with CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis, she said CHCC reiterates its appreciation that CUC continues to work with them to find a solution regarding CHCC's debt.

"The CHCC would once again like to stress that a number of factors out of the control of the CHCC are affecting our ability to pay [the debt]," she said. Factors that contribute are the lack of employee-sponsored insurance in the CNMI, which leads to the growing uninsured population. In addition to the uninsured population, Travis said that many

uninsured patients are unable to qualify for Medicaid services because they are under CW-1 visas.

"We want to stress the urgent need for the government and private sector to work together on a solution, which will go a long way toward ensuring that all CNMI residents can afford medical care," Travis said.

CUC previously reported the utility billing of CHCC has reached over \$32 million, and urged that CHCC pays at least \$400,000 a month. CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* on Nov. 13, that they did send CHCC CEO Esther Muña a notice of CHCC needing to pay the minimum. Travis confirmed the CHCC's cooperation with CUC, and CHCC is looking for ways to heed CUC's request.

Last Oct. 2, CHCC paid

CUC \$200,000 when Camacho discussed with Muña about the CHCC's ongoing delinquent account. He said CUC is aware of the current challenges that CHCC is currently dealing with and is working with Muña to work on a resolution to pay the current monthly billings.

In addition to CHCC's challenges, it previously reported of its high dependence on CNMI Medicaid's ability to pay for health care services, as reimbursements from the agency is about 44% of its total revenue in fiscal year 2019. In addition, without improvements to Medicaid and the cuts on the Affordable Care Act, the CNMI government will need to make significant contributions on funding the Medicaid program, which could lead to significant drawbacks on funding for CHCC's ability to deal with the debt.

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EXPLORE YOUR WORLD 

Woman arrested for 'ice' possession

A woman was arrested for alleged possession of methamphetamine, while two men were arrested for separate assault incidents on Saipan over the weekend.

Marjelyn Naputi, 31, was arrested for illegal possession of controlled substance, while Kazuyuki Lizama, 33, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon. Ryan Pua, 34, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

Naputi, Lizama, and Pua were brought before Superior Court Associate Judge Ken-

» **2 men arrested for assault**

neth L. Govendo for their initial appearance hearing yesterday.

Preliminary hearing in the three cases will be on Nov. 27 at 9am.

A \$10,000 cash bail was imposed on Naputi. A \$1,000 cash bail was imposed each for Lizama and Pua.

According to a Customs inspector, last Thursday afternoon a detector dog handler and a K9 dog conducted a routine inspection on a cargo destined for Tinian at the Star Marianas cargo area.

The K9 dog responded to an envelope addressed to a per-

son that Naputi sent via cargo flight to Tinian.

Upon further inspection of the envelop, Customs officer noticed five small baggies containing substance believe to be methamphetamine that were wrapped in a paper.

The report did not indicate the quantity of the seized substance.

Naputi was arrested in Kagman last Thursday night.

In Lizama's case, he allegedly beat up his male friend, who checked on his (Lizama) wife at their house as Typhoon Hagibis had passed through Saipan last Oct. 9. The victim suffered injuries.

See WOMAN on Next Page

Calling for student art to raise coral reef awareness

Not only do the coral reefs provide home to nearly 30% of all marine species, over half a billion people also depend on it.

Sadly, reefs here in the CNMI have not been spared from coral bleaching. While bleaching events are a natural phenomenon, the warming of the ocean is causing the bleaching to happen faster, more frequently, and severely.

To help raise awareness about climate change and its impact to coral reefs, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, through its Division of Coastal Resources

Management, is calling on students to join in the CNMI Coral Reef Initiative Calendar Art Contest.

Students in grades 4-12 from across the islands enrolled in recognized public, private, and homeschools are invited to submit their artwork, based on two questions: how does climate change affect the CNMI's coral reefs, and what are you doing to help coral reefs?

The artworks will be judged on creativity, artistic presentation, and relevance to the theme. Thirteen winners will be selected.

Entries (the entry form and

artwork) should be hand-delivered to the BECQ office at the Gualo Rai Center no later than Monday, Nov. 25. Look for Jihan Younis, CRI education and outreach coordinator.

For more information, visit www.dcrm.gov.mp, call 664-8300, or email outreach@dcrm.gov.mp. (Iva Maurin)

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Andersen AFB to host Operation Christmas Drop



374th Airlift Wing Airmen work on a C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron on the Yokota Air Base, Japan flightline, Nov. 12, 2019. Yokota Air Base is the Pacific's premier power projection platform.

The 68th iteration of Operation Christmas Drop is set to take to the Pacific skies, Dec. 9 hosted by the 36th Wing.

The Department of Defense's longest recurring humanitarian mission is a long-standing annual tradition of packaging and delivering food, tools and toys to more than 57 remote islands in the South-Eastern Pacific, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

During the weeklong international charity effort, Pacific Air Forces airpower ambassadors from Andersen AFB, Guam, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii and Yokota Air Base, Japan, will work with their partners of the Japanese, Australian and, for

the first time, New Zealand air forces and includes observers from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand to execute low-cost, low-altitude training air drops. The aerial delivery will serve as valuable interoperability training for the partner nations while delivering various donations provided by private donors, charitable organizations and the University of Guam.

The tradition began during the Christmas season in 1952 when a B-29 Superfortress aircrew saw islanders waving at them from Kapingamarangi atoll, 3,500 miles southwest of Hawaii. In the spirit of Christmas the aircrew dropped a bundle of supplies attached to a parachute to the islanders below, giving the operation

its name. Today, air drop operations include more than 50 islands throughout the Pacific. Operation Christmas Drop includes Airmen and assets from the 374th Airlift Wing, Yokota Air Base, Japan; the 36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam; 734th Air Mobility Squadron, Andersen AFB, the 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; the University of Guam; and the 'Operation Christmas Drop' private organization which leads the fundraising and donations for the operation. Andersen is used as a "base camp" to airlift the donated goods to islanders throughout Micronesia.

Utilizing the Denton Program, which allows private U.S. citizens and organiza-

tions to use space available on U.S. military cargo planes to transport humanitarian goods to countries in need, the C-130J Super Hercules crews airdrop food, supplies, educational materials, and toys to islanders throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau. These islands are some of the most remote locations on the globe spanning a distance nearly as broad as the continental U.S.

Months leading up the drop dates, volunteers create donation drop-off boxes and raise money from local businesses and citizens. A week before the drop, volunteer Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, civilians, contractors and families assist in picking up and

more than political posturing," he continued.

Sablan on Monday told *Saipan Tribune* regarding social media comments on initiating an impeachment proceeding against Torres.

She said the Legislature has the authority to conduct oversight and investigations on other branches of the government—including the Executive Branch—as the CNMI Constitution sets up each branch to provide checks and balances on one another.

"Any impeachment process, should we come to that, would be separate from

the criminal process, though evidence that is presented in criminal proceeding may be examined by the Legislature as well," she previously said, adding that the issues at hand go "beyond party lines and loyalties."

Saipan Tribune also reached out to House Speaker Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao (R-Saipan), but he declined to comment as of publication.

However, Demapan reiterated that everybody is innocent until proven guilty.

"Governor Torres has cooperated with the ongoing investigation. He has always upheld the trust and responsibility of

this office and believes that in due time, this investigation will find him clear of any further concern. The process toward clearing his name on this issue will take time, but it is a process that must be respected," he said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation last Nov. 7 and 8 executed search warrants all over Saipan.

The FBI, along with the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, also visited the Commonwealth Casino Commission Tuesday. CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero did not disclose the reason for their visit.

ings would have partial power and would lose power once a certain amount of electricity is used up," Sablan said. Once the buildings lost power and a sudden surge of students asking to be released early, DMS staff decided that holding half-day session was the best option.

Sablan added the inspection from both PSS and CUC found that a transformer malfunctioned after the previous typhoon that passed

the CNMI. Sablan said the half-day sessions will continue until CUC completes its groundwork. Sablan said a private contractor hired by PSS would take over with the wiring and connection to the school's power, and once their work is complete, classes can be held in normal hours.

The name of the contractor was not specified.

Sablan said with the temporary implementation of

sorting the donations. After the goods are sorted, riggers from Yokota and Andersen volunteers build dozens of boxes to hold the materials, most containing school supplies, clothing, rice, fishing equipment and toys.

Each year, the Christmas drops serve as a proving ground for the techniques used and shared with regional partners in preparation for response to natural disasters all too common across this region.

Air crews are linked to the village via ham radio as they fly overhead and drop supplies. The event provides readiness training to participating aircrew, allowing them to gain experience in conducting airdrops while providing critical supplies to 56 Micronesian islands impacting about 20,000 people.

Low-Cost Low-Altitude

(LCLA) airdrop is cost-efficient and easy to apply across the global airlift community, utilizing readily available resources and repurposed personnel parachutes to build supply pallets at a fraction of the cost of other airdrop bundles. These pallets are dropped at low-altitude to improve drop accuracy.

Demonstrating and executing LCLA drops alongside regional allies is just one example of the USAF actively pursuing and participating in interoperability partner training to increase Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief operational capabilities while ensuring stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Nearly seven decades and more than 1 million pounds of charitable goods later, the 2019 missions are set to carry on this tradition of international goodwill. (PR)

JUDGE

From Page 1

the court pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Court dockets show that the first exhibit is the search and seizure warrant, while the second is the grand jury subpoena.

Manglona, however, unsealed the third exhibit.

The third exhibit is FBI's receipt for property, which lists what were seized from IPI's accounting office at Marina Heights Building I in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

Manglona said that last Nov. 13, IPI, through coun-

sel Phillip Tydingco, filed a second motion to stay and a memorandum of support of the motion in a civil case.

She said Tydingco attached three exhibits to its memorandum.

Manglona said she then *sua sponte* restricted access to the exhibits.

The three documents, including the two now being sealed, were leaked through social media.

The FBI is reportedly looking into possible violations of federal laws that involve Torres, his family, IPI, and other persons, resulting in the execution of search warrants on several sites last Nov. 7 and 8.

AUSTERITY

From Page 1

He added that while the work week has been restored, the government is still going to maintain austerity cost containment measures.

This means the government will still review every travel, every contract, and every purchase of over \$2,500.

While the restoration of the 80-hour work week also means having to pay \$500,000 per pay period again, Atalig believes that it is going to be "money well spent."

"We want money in the people's pockets so they can spend, so we can have business activity," Atalig said. "I need business activities to happen so that I can get BGRs [business gross revenue] and collect taxes and so forth."

Sablan said he is thankful for CUC's rapid response after the school's inquiry for support, and is hopeful the CUC crew currently working on the school's transformer and power lines can have it completed in due time.

too much of our cash situation because of the activities that we may be looking forward to. But at the same time, we need our buying power to come back into the community," Atalig added.

Last week, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed ap-

preciation to all government employees for their patience and understanding, and for their continuous service to the people of the Northern Marianas during the austerity period.

WOMAN

From Page 3

Lizama was arrested in Su-

supe last Friday. In Pua's case, the defendant allegedly tried to swing a machete against another man at a residence in Chalan Lau Lau last Aug. 31.

When responding police officers arrived at the scene that afternoon, Pua was still allegedly holding two machetes and a bottle.

Pua was re-arrested in Chalan Lau Lau last Friday. (Ferdi de la Torre)

monwealth Utilities Corp.'s inspections, a downed transformer caused the issues on the power systems. Sablan said that buildings B, D, and E, have lost power leaving DMS to only have three classroom buildings with full power.

"We have been dealing with this problem for about three to four weeks, where the build-

Saipan hosts first CNMI-Guam language dialogue



IVA MAURIN

The Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission hosted its first *Kumfirensian Kumbetsasion Iya Mariånas-Schuulapal Mwaliili llol Marianas-Regional Dialogue* last Nov. 14-15, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, through its Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission, hosted its first *Kumfirensian Kumbetsasion Iya Mariånas-Schuulapal Mwaliili llol Marianas-Regional Dialogue* last Nov. 14-15 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The event is the first-ever regional dialogue between the Guam Language Commission and the CNMI Language Commission.

CCLPC executive director Melvin Faisao said that the dialogue is conducted to ensure that both the CNMI and Guam can address any regional differences, particularly in terms of orthography.

"We are conducting this dialogue to assure that we can address any differences, such as the existing CNMI adopted orthography with the existing Guam orthography," Faisao said.

"We would focus on how to preserve, strengthen, and enhance our orthography that will better serve our stakeholders, the students, as well as other people who would like to learn our language," he added.

Official dignitaries from the Guam Language Commission, chair Dr. Hope Alvarez Cristobal, Dr. Laura Souder, and Ms. Teresita C. Flores, represented Guam during the dialogue.

Guam presented their strategic plan, among other pertinent information, and the CNMI presented actions that had been undertaken to meet the demands of CCLPC mandates.

The two-day event featured presentations about the Public School System Immersion Program, Chamorro dictionary, as well as a report from

the Northern Marianas College on the classes offered at NMC on the utilization of existing orthography in higher educational

level. Information on the recent Chamorro-Carolinian Identity Conference was also presented. "The goal of this gather-

The two-day event featured presentations about the Public School System Immersion Program, Chamorro dictionary, as well as a report from the Northern Marianas College on the classes offered at NMC on the utilization of existing orthography in higher educational level.

ing is uniting to strengthen, perpetuate, and preserve our language and culture. Living culture, living arts. What we

should be discussing is how these living, dynamic forces which comprise our heritage can be strengthened and en-

hance," Faisao stressed.

For more information about language, call the CCLPC office at 664-5321.



IVA MAURIN

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- Fiesta Resort & Spa
- Hawaiian Rock
- Hyatt Regency Saipan
- Mobil

Latte Stone Donors

- All Star Sporting Goods
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- Saipan Vegas
- Serenity Salon & Spa
- Seventh Day Adventist Clinic
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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Cargill Helping the world thrive

CHCC teaches how to create LGBTQ-friendly environment

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. held workshops on creating an inclusive environment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer patients and staff. The workshops were held from Oct. 29 to Oct. 31 and facilitated by Vicki Kobayashi and Darlene Du Brall, from the

Hawaii Youth Services Network, in partnership with the CHCC Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

Both Kobayashi and Du Brall are Gays, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) certified trainers. GLSEN is a non-profit, U.S.-based organization that works to promote LGBTQ inclusivity, particularly in K-12 schools.

The two workshops were offered to a combination of 31 CHCC staff and community partners, including the Northern Marianas College and Public School System. The first workshop, "The LGBT Community: Understanding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity," focused on providing an overview of the many terms and vocabulary that are frequently used in the

LGBTQ community, including the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity; this workshop was designed to improve communication and messaging that involves LGBTQ topics.

The second workshop, "Creating LGBT Inclusive Environments," focused on creating a safe and inclusive space for both LGBTQ clients and coworkers. The workshop

was designed to help participants think critically about organizational policies regarding LGBTQ individuals, and how they can be improved, understanding LGBTQ people and their health needs, and improve communication to create an a safe and affirming workplace for everyone.

Workshops like these are vital in improving health care access for LGBTQ people

who are often discriminated, particularly those who are transgender. CHCC remains committed to maintaining a high standard of care for every patient, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and will continue to educate its staff on the importance of LGBTQ-specific care, as well as work to improve internal policies to protect LGBTQ staff.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

US Navy to conduct training in open ocean today

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises from 9am to 6pm today, Nov. 20, within a 10-nautical mile radius of the following coordinates: 13°45'N/144°35'E, 13°30'N/144°35'E, 13°30'N/144°19'E, and 13°45'N/144°19'E.

It is recommended the general public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas

Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-3209. (PR)

MIFICPA silver jubilee this Saturday

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPA and Accountants will be celebrating its silver jubilee this Saturday, Nov. 23, from 6pm to 10pm at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. (PR)

Remediation work at Guma' Hustisia

Construction and site remediation work at the Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice on Saipan will re-

quire the partial closure of the service windows on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, and Friday, Nov. 22, 2019. Hours of operation for the Office of the Clerk of Court, Commonwealth Recorder and the Cashier services at the Guma' Hustisia will be as follows:

- Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019: Closed 7:30am to 12 noon and open from 12:01pm to 4:30pm.
- Friday, Nov. 22, 2019: Open 7:30am to 11:30am and closed all afternoon.

All other Judiciary offices will maintain regular business hours. (PR)

SHRM meeting tomorrow

The Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter will have its general membership meeting tomorrow, Nov. 21, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom, beginning at 8am. The guest speaker will be Jenna Grambort, trial attorney in the Immigrant and Employee Rights Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, who will be presenting information on the INA's anti-discrimination provision. She will provide helpful information

on how to avoid employment discrimination based on citizenship status and national origin.

The results of the election for the 2020 CNMI SHRM board members will also be announced.

This meeting is open to the public and includes a breakfast buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. (PR)

Survivors & caregivers support group meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association's monthly support group meeting on Thursday, Nov. 21, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolian Room. Guest speaker is Dr. Peter Brett, oncologist at the Commonwealth Health Center. His presentation will be on the roles of diet, physical activity and body weight among cancer survivors.

To RSVP or for more in-

formation, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarinas@gmail.com. (PR)

Wanted: Volunteer kettle ringers

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers as bell ringers from Nov. 29, the day after Thanksgiving, up until Dec. 24, Christmas Eve. The bell ringers would do two-hour shifts each. The Red Kettle campaign is the Salvation Army's fundraiser.

The Salvation Army will also have a delivery of Thanksgiving meals to tent dwellers, low income families, and the homeless on Thanksgiving Day.

It is also calling on the community to support their annual toy drive, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Saipan and Toys for Tots.

To sign up as volunteer or for more information on how your business can participate, contact Pastor Wayne Gillespie at 483-0885 or gaprens@yahoo.com. (IBM)

Essay contest open to high school students

The Saipan College Prep Academy is holding its "1st Annual SCPA Essay Contest" for high school students on the

island. The contest is a double competition, with one open only to SCPA students, and the other being open to all high school students in the CNMI. Students need to write a 650-word essay on the topic, "Is Greta Thunberg right?" and submit it to Keith Tessen or Wanja Choi at the SCPA on or before Dec. 15 for SCPA students, and Dec. 30 for the rest. Winners in both contests will each take home \$500, second placers \$250, and third placers \$125. For more information, contact SCPA at 285-1669 or email Tessen at keithallentesen@gmail.com. (PR)

CWA to host Fun-Raise-Her

The CNMI Women's Association is inviting everyone to its inaugural "Fun-Raise-Her" Dinner on Nov. 22, from 6pm to 10pm, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan to help further CWA's work that help fund programs and services that serve girls and women. Tickets are priced at \$75 per person and can be purchased by calling 233-8978/9411, emailing cwa.fogumoro@gmail.com, or visiting the CWA Office (Building #1223) on Capital Hill. (IBM)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-SNMC-010**

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 20, 2019 **TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE, ENGRAVING, SHIPPING, AND INSTALLATION OF THE SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS LEADERSHIP MEMORIAL KIOKSU NAME PLAQUE (SIGNAGE) FOR THE 15TH SAIPAN & NORTHERN ISLANDS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

*/S/ ANTONIA M. TUDELA
ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF SNMC*

*/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S*

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a Special Board meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
- D. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments**

III. Emergency Procurement of Engine 5

IV. Executive Session ***

- A. Discussions on the Emergency Procurement of Engine 5 and Engine #8 Funding

V. Announcements

VI. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-BECQ/DCRM-011**

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2019 **TIME: 09:30 A.M.**

"MEASURED LAND & MARINE SURVEYS OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT'S (CRM) DESIGNATED AREAS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN: COASTAL HAZARDS, SHORELINES, WETLANDS & STREAMS, PORTS & INDUSTRIAL, & LAGOON, CORAL REEF, & SEAGRASS FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MS. SAM SABLON BY EMAIL AT sablans@dcrm.gov.mp, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS NOVEMBER 29, 2019**.** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

*/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ*

*/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S*

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NMHC RFP 2020-001**

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

**CONDUCT AND PREPARE THE ANALYSIS
OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Proposal package will be available on **November 13, 2019**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays or you may obtain the proposal package online at www.nmhcgov.net "Public Notice/Announcements" subtitle "Request for Proposal".

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAIC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at **10:00 a.m. on December 4, 2019**, at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room in Garapan. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-proposal conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/7689; (670)483-9447; or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.mp during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

*/s/ Aubrey Hocog
Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors*

*/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
Division of Procurement & Supply*

Marianas Next Top Models to raise environmental awareness

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ten high school students in the Northern Marianas will not only be competing on fashion, but will also be raising environmental awareness in the CNMI at this year's Marianas Next Top Model.

Now on its eighth run, the 2019 Marianas Next Top Model runs on the theme "Fashion in Trash" with its pageant red carpet coronation night set on Dec. 1 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

"We are focusing on trash as a theme to help save mother Earth and to help our environment in the midst of climate change," event organizer Sharmaine Casquero said.

This year's contestants are Kimberly Michelle Santos, Chloe Meldain Lopez, Jenica Isabel Suarez Hidalgo, Alianna Layne Sublemente, Adriane Jay Manalang, Nathaniel Maesa, Merari Guzman, Elaiza Songco, and Charles Asistores.

The modeling competition will also have the contestants strut the runway wearing clothes made from recycled materials.

Recognizing the need to address the growing trash problem in the CNMI, the Marianas Next Top Model contestants will be joining

clean up sessions, as well as conduct tree planting activities with the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

The young models will also meet with the officials of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

The 2019 Marianas Next Top Model is directed and choreographed by Casquero and is produced by the Saipan Unity Lions Club.

For more information, contact Casquero through facebook.com/sharmaine.casquero.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 2019 Marianas Next Top Model candidates pose with event coordinator Sharmaine Casquero and the officers and members of the Saipan Unity Lions Club.

GMS Math Team tops Math Court team-round event

Six of the Green Meadow School Middle School Math Court team dominated during the Math Court competition last Oct. 19 at Marianas High School.

The Team topped the team-round event. The team consisted of four students namely: Joseph Victor Jimenez, Areeza Gaile Anda, Chealzka Navarro, and John Edsel Hinolan. Joseph Victor Jimenez (8th grade) also ranked first place in the individual-round event. Yel Khalil Ocampo (6th grade) placed third. Another 6th grader, John Edsel Hinolan, placed 4th,

while Chealzka Navarro (7th grade) ranked 4th, too.

These students already earned their spots at the regional competition along with two other middle schoolers, Solana Arro Hunter (7th grade) and Areeza Gaile Anda (8th grade).

The school administration would like to congratulate all the participants for doing their best during the competition. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Green Meadow School Math Team poses for a group photo with their coaches.



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More information and nomination request forms can be found at sablán.house.gov or by calling 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.

NOMINATION REQUEST DEADLINE: DECEMBER 13, 2019

Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives



Agroforestry Workshop

Photos by NMC-CREES



Last week, community members on Saipan participated in the Agroforestry Workshop hosted by the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services program. Participants were able to learn about the latest strategies (including hands-on activities) in planning and creating a food forest. Photo shows Aunty Shirley Kauhaihao, Dr. Craig Elevitch, and Mr. Neil Logan from Hawaii pose for a photo at the Agroforestry Workshop.



Arnold Route, NMC-CREES Extension agent, tilling soil for participants to plant.



Participants working together to get the agroforest ready.



NMC CREEs horticulture scientist, Dr. Virendra Verma, talks about composting in an agroforest.



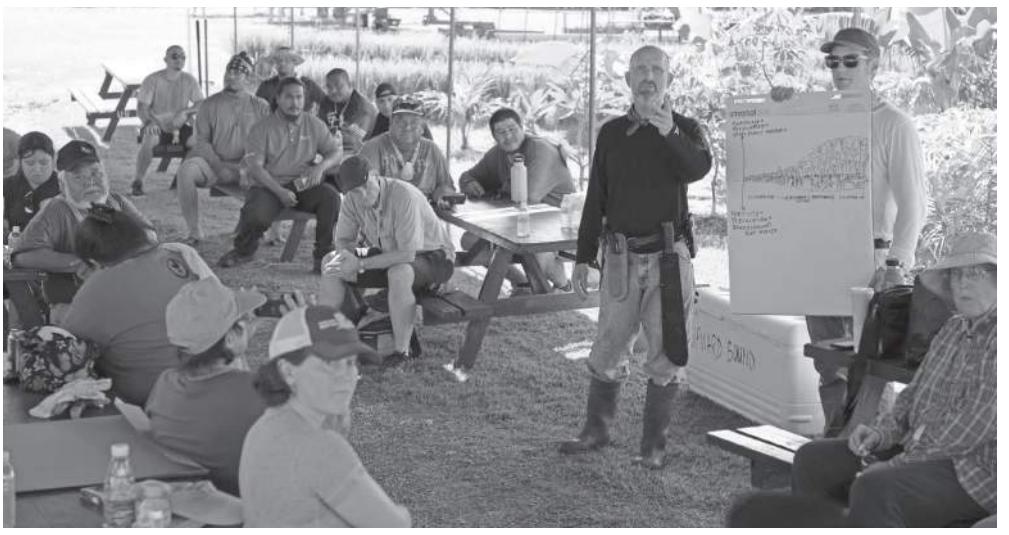
Participants planting a banana tree in the agroforest.



Neil Loga talking to participants of the Agroforestry Workshop.



Participants working together to plant trees.



Dr. Craig Elevitch and Neil Logan talking about the stages of an agroforest

Domenech completes trip to US Virgin Islands

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Doug Domenech completed a productive trip to the U.S. Virgin Islands. He was traveling with Dwayne Petersen, the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) USVI desk officer. This is the Assistant Secretary's sixth trip to the islands since the beginning of the Trump Administra-

tion. Last year, Interior's Insular Affairs Office provided \$7 million in grants to the territory and facilitated the \$258 million rum rebate payment to the USVI for 2018 taxes. This trip was a follow-up to Governor Bryan's recent visit with Interior Secretary David Bernhardt in Washington, D.C.

While on St. Croix, Assistant Secretary Domenech met with the following individuals:

Jacquelyn Heyliger, FEMA Field Office Director, on the status of recovery projects and funding. Over \$6 billion has been allocated to the recovery and over \$2.6 billion has been outlaid. They work closely with the Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR), an office created using 2018 Hurricane Supplemental Funding provided by Congress. The ODR provides critical finan-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Sean Krieger, State Historic Preservation Officer; JP Oriol, Commissioner for the Department of Planning and Natural Resources; and U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Doug Domenech.

Veteran pre-enrollment services start

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Naval Base Guam Visitor Control Center Contractor Services Office started veteran pre-enrollment services this week as part of the upcoming changes to base access and privileges under the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act.

Pre-enrollment services will continue every Tuesday and Thursday through Dec. 12.

Dozens of veterans took advantage of the services this week, including Air Force veteran Duane Salas, 39, of Dededo. Since his service ended in 2005, Salas has only been on a military installation for doctor's appointments and looks forward to the changes that will take effect in January 2020.

"I encourage all the veterans to take advantage of it," Salas said, referring to the pre-enrollment services. "I believe we've done all our part. This is awesome because now I can be able to go back on base and buy something."

Veterans and eligible caregivers must bring:

Veterans Health Information Card (VHIC) and/or Let-

ter of eligibility
Completed SECNAV Form 5512/1

The hours of operation are from 7am to 10:30am and noon to 3:30pm. The office is closed from 11am to 12pm.

These days are specifically designated for veteran pre-enrollment services. Contractors will be seen by appointment only and may schedule appointments via email at nbg.vcc@fe.navy.mil or visit the VCC.

As of Thursday afternoon, nearly 200 people were processed, with an average wait time of 25 minutes. Veterans are encouraged to pre-enroll to avoid longer processing wait times come January.

Pedro Borja, 72, of Barrigada was at the NBG VCC Thursday to pre-register. The Army veteran said he heard about the pre-enrollment through the media and was thankful that NBG designated days specifically for the VHIC.

"The service was great," Borja said. "It's more than outstanding because I am not even standing outside. I got through the process and everything."

Section 621 of the NDAA authorizes privileges at the commissary, Military Service Exchange, and certain Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facilities for Purple Heart recipients, veterans with service-connected disabilities, those who have been Prisoners of War (POW), and registered primary or family caregivers.

Section 626 requires that the Secretary of Defense establish procedures, by which eligible surviving spouses and other next-of-kin, may obtain unescorted access to military installations in order to receive benefits to which they may be entitled to by law or policy.

Both sections are effective Jan. 1, 2020.

In order for eligible persons to avail of the aforementioned privileges they must obtain a VHIC or be issued a letter to specify eligible caregivers, both of which are an approved credential for requesting installation access.

Veterans with questions regarding the veteran pre-enrollment services are encouraged to contact the VCC at 339-6217/5208/1280/1380. (PR)

cial management coordination across each agency and organization receiving disaster recovery funds.

Larry Kupfer, CEO for the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA). Their discussions centered around WAPA's recovery, ways the Department of the Interior (DOI) can continue to be of assistance, and plans to increase the reliability and lower the cost of energy for customers. In 2018, OIA provided \$178,996, to supplement FEMA assistance to repair damages done to the electricity distribution and billing system following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. At the time,

nearly 90 percent of electric distribution services across the territory was destroyed. WAPA is now 100% online with power distribution in the territory.

St. Croix Chamber of Commerce Chairman Ryan Neltorpp of Marshall & Sterling Insurance, and Leon Hughes of NEARiX. They discussed the status of business recovery in St. Croix and ways to work together to build economic development for the island.

Greg Camacho, Acting Superintendent of National Park sites in St. Croix. They discussed recovery plans and projects at Salt River, Buck Island, and Fort Christiansted.

While in St. Thomas, Assistant Secretary Domenech met with the following:

Commissioner for the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Jean-Pierre Oriol. They discussed recovery issues, possible funding opportunities from Insular Affairs, and plans for next year's U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting.

Members of the 33rd Legislature where they discussed OIA's work in the territory and elected leaders shared their concerns.

Lisa Hamilton, President of the USVI Hotel and Tourism Association, to discuss the status of recovery of the hotel sector.

Assistant Secretary Domenech concludes his trip with a stop in Puerto Rico where he will attend the Advisor Council meeting of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico (Para la Naturaleza). Domenech represents Interior as a federal partner on the Board. (PR)



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Time: 9:30AM- 11:30AM

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 Capitol Hill

Presented by:


Nicole Babauta
Director & Business Advisor
CNMI SBDC

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For more information, visit our website at
www.pacificsbdc.com or call
CNMI SBDC Office at 664-3018



A diagram illustrating the marketing process. At the top, the word "MARKETING" is centered above a flowchart. The flowchart shows a cycle: "STRATEGY" leads to "ACTION", which leads to "PROMOTION", which leads to "GROWTH", which leads back to "ACTION". Arrows indicate the flow between these stages. The word "CHANGE" is positioned in the center of the cycle. The entire diagram is set against a background of various charts and graphs.

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a co-operative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with enough advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950 Tel: (670)664-3018 or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Trump stupidly erases 40 years of US opposition to Israeli West Bank settlements

Israel's victory in the Six-Day War in 1967 left it in control of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula. Just a month later, it built its first civilian Israeli settlement on occupied territory.

That was five decades ago, and as the settlements have grown and spread, the world has condemned them as an illegal exploitation of land seized in war. There's little doubt that the settlements are provocative, illegitimate and an obstacle — perhaps an insurmountable obstacle — to a two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Because of its close alliance with Israel, the United States has been somewhat less outspoken over the years than other countries in its public condemnation of the settlements. But the official State Department position since the so-called Hansell Memorandum of 1978 has been that civilian settlements in the territories are "inconsistent with international law."

Until now. The impetuous and irresponsible Trump administration announced Monday that, effective immediately, the United States government no longer considers Israeli settlements illegal. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, who made the announcement, said the administration was merely recognizing "the reality on the ground."

The Trump administration makes wrong decisions on a day-to-day basis, but this unnecessary giveaway to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel's hard-liners is one of its dumbest moves yet. It could delay peace for many years.

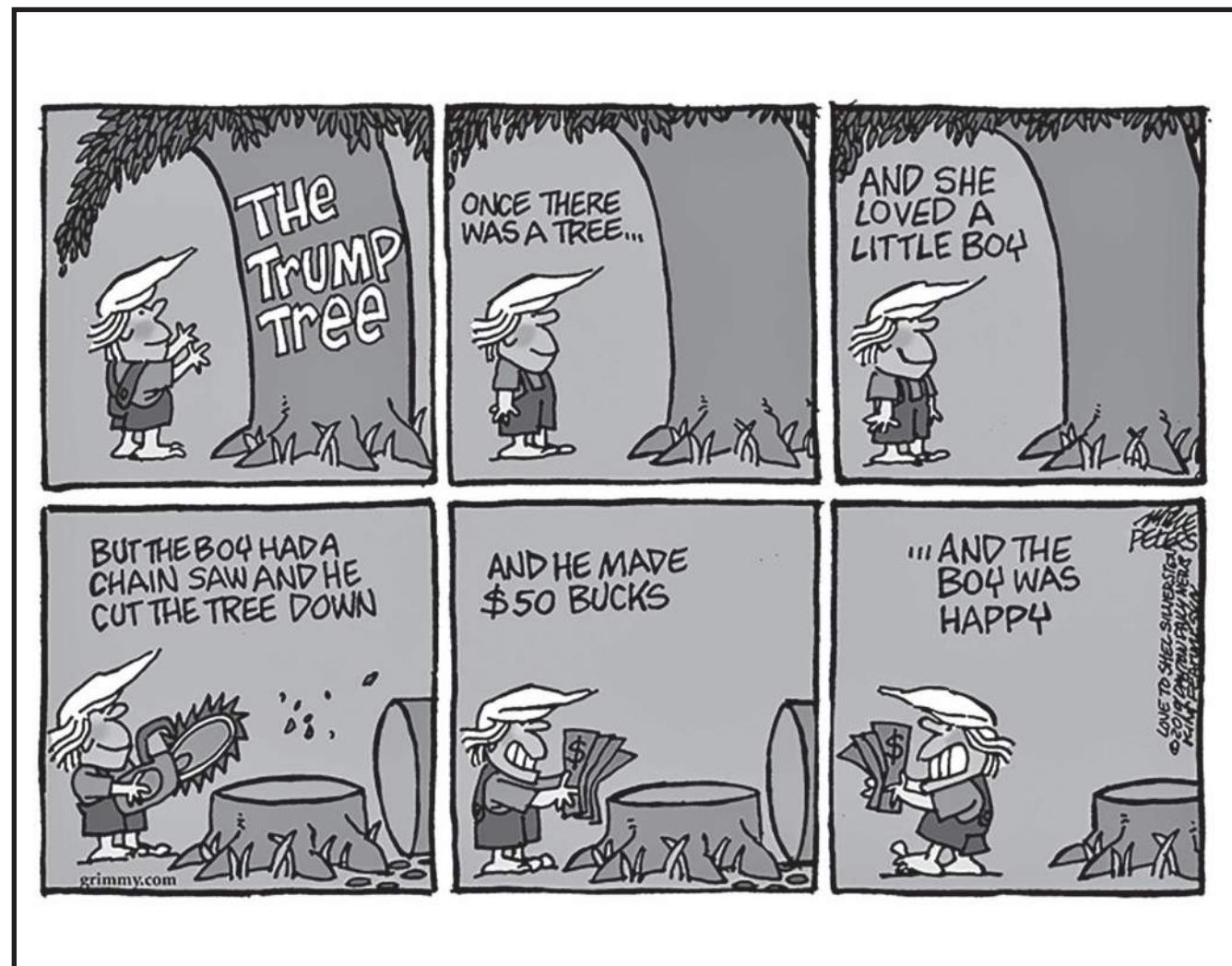
There's little disagreement around the world that the settlements are a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and of United Nations Resolution 242, which calls for Israel to retreat to the pre-1967 borders. As long ago as 1975, the Los Angeles Times editorial page called the settlements an "obstacle to peace."

At that time, there were fewer than 5,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank. Today there are nearly 400,000. That doesn't count those in the Golan Heights or the approximately 200,000 in traditionally Arab East Jerusalem.

Monday's move again aligns the Trump administration with Netanyahu and other Israeli hawks whose bad decisions (along with plenty of bad decisions by the Palestinians) have nearly destroyed the once-promising peace process. Among other things, Trump has recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, moved the U.S. Embassy there and recognized the Golan Heights as Israeli territory.

One can only hope that when the reckless Trump administration is finally driven out of office, it will not be too late to reposition the U.S. as a constructive proponent of a just, secure and durable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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Ancient Rome's lesson for Washington as impeachment inquiry progresses

By RANDY S. ROBBINS
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Parallels drawn between ancient Rome and the United States are nothing novel and vary from prosaic to alarmist. But Rome's fateful slide from republic to empire increasingly appears to augur Washington's crumbling ethicality.

Two decades ago, both houses of Congress clamored for President Clinton's impeachment as seedy details of the Monica Lewinsky scandal came to light. As sordid a moment in American annals as that proved, it amounted to a shamelessly lied-about dalliance — a moral transgression previously committed by numerous presidents and one made laughable by Trumpian standards.

But those who clamored loudest for Clinton's impeachment — Mitch McConnell and Lindsey Graham among them — are largely those who remain quietest while President Trump contemptuously disregards the Constitution and imperils the very democratic principles that their congressional seats were designed to defend.

Such "tidal" morality transcends Washington's usual partisan games. Demagoguery of an insidiousness never before seen on these shores has transformed the GOP from the party of law and order to a barrel of Benedict Arnolds. Classically Roman in attitude and appetites, Donald Trump crossed the Potomac championing mendacity as a virtue. *Veni, vidi, mendaci.* Yet even the most gifted charlatan couldn't foment this dystopian metamorphosis alone; Capitol Hill opportunists eagerly jumped aboard the Trump train once it pulled into the White House, and they display no intention of throwing the switch.

This is a sea change in government, an abandonment of ethics and values on a scale very possibly not seen since Caesar's rise to power. It's also a domestic variety of dastardly Chamberlainian appeasement — and though thankfully not equal in consequence, it's equal in principle, encouraging Trump to dare increasingly brazen violations of his oath of office.

The oft-cited Department of Justice policy against indicting a sitting president contradicts both America's ethos and sheer common sense. Our tri-branched government, devised precisely for safeguarding the nation from a power-hungry chief executive, is rendered moot if Congress declines its duty. The Founding Fathers didn't risk their necks to rid the colonies of a foreign

despot only to suffer a homegrown version — and it's an affront to every American to pretend with this "policy" that they did. Yet Congress, suddenly a paragon of poltroonery, seems now the ornamental assembly of a third-world backwater.

As cowardly or complicit legislators allow Trump to reap emoluments, reapportion taxpayer dollars and proffer shady deals with foreign powers, the Constitution grows ever feebler and Congress' moral standing erodes. These Trumpian misdeeds, among many others, are exactly the class of malefactions that gutted Roman commitment to the republic, and the now-ironically-named Republicans' glib refusal to impede Trump — in violation of their oath of office — is tantamount to the Roman Senate's granting Julius Caesar triumph after triumph, on its way to appointing him dictator for life. (It's worth recalling that Trump "joked" numerous times of running for a third term or simply refusing to vacate the White House — unsettling remarks that reek of Caesarian intent, and which his party does nothing to quell.)

A rude awakening awaits those who think America will return to normalcy once Donald Trump departs the political stage. The poisonous effects of his presidency will be felt for years after, from weaponizing virtually every political issue to the damage wreaked by environmental rollbacks to the stratospheric deficit to wounded national prestige and alliances. Even Trump's repugnant crudeness and utter lack of empathy — emulated by his worst disciples — will spawn imitators in his absence.

Our Constitution's resiliency never truly had been tested before Trump's ascendancy, so many simply assume it will emerge unharmed. But flouting the Constitution with no congressional repercussions creates a deeply troubling precedent that endangers the core of American liberty. Once the Constitution has incurred all manner of unchecked abuse from Trump as his party turns a blind eye, how can we expect its presumably ironclad words to remain enforceable? What's to stop future presidents of either party from repeating his derelictions? Trump has already soiled the Constitution with insolent disobedience; what crimes a second term will embolden him to commit likely will dwarf those already perpetrated.

History is a guide — sometimes a warning — on how to avoid the calamitous mistakes of our ancestors. But we too often forget to remember, and the world can shake from our complacency.

Randy S. Robbins (rr555111@yahoo.com) is a writer and editor.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Planun Iran Linau

Nos kuantus siuda giya Japon madandan dia-riu un' kantan famaguon dispues de talo'ane. I kanta señat finattu pueñge yan preparasion siakassu mattu i mananañga na linau.

Dañkulu na destrosiu u fattu 'an magahet na linau i tanu'. Megai u fan dimalas yan dinisplanta 'an dinanche Japon ni mananañga na ira. Gi halum Tokyo yan bisinu siha na siuda guaha kase 37 miyon na tautau.

Huli'e Los Angeles fuetsan dañkulu na linau. Tat tiha yeñ-guñg kontodu manadan ma'pe padet yan bintanan espehus. Hu falague entalu' potta estake pumara i fette na siso' amaka. Piligru na ira.

Dinimalas: Kase bente na estudiante man-matai gi un' es-tadu America gi mapus na semana pot manmapaki. Era, hu-muyuñg un' estudiante yan pakiña ya ha fuegu karkuet direksion halum eskuela.

Ha atisa dibaten areglun malisensian paki gi tautau siha. Guaha ti manfitme pot probleman chathinemlu' kabesa. 'Nai ti fitme puses problema 'nai mattu gi disision usun atmas paki. Presisu fitme na inadahe guine na asuntu pot unu yan tod.

Guafe: I kimasson gi halum estadun iya California ha dispalanta mas ke mit na familia. Megai man-dinestrosia fanliheñg niha. Pues mapega fina' tento' gi kantun chalan para temporariu na fanliheñg familia. Puede u chadeg ma-areglia tatte ha' anen niha.

Suetdu: Guine, hu akanteha kinalamten tropan petlas Marianas. Un' pettiente na asuntu: Haf' na planu guaha para umahatsa suetdun 15-mit na empleau ni gumagana suetdun popble pa'gu?

Na ti guaha promesa para in' adelanta kualidat linala' familia? Haf' i propiu ineppe guine na asuntu? Na ti magahet na gaige gi mahatsan suetdun popble? Haf' na ditension guaha?

Animu: Mauleg sa' homlu' kinalamten dikiki' na industrian bisita ni muna' guaha cho'chu' yan fondu para nesessidat-ta siha guine. Puede ha sustenueggi este na kinalamten. Makat 'an

maribaha ekonomian i tanu'. Ha afuetsas menus cho'chu' kontodu maribahan suetdu!

Tapun: Un' tiempu gi inai iya San Roque sige familia gi chepchup unai mana' liliku' kanai niha. Huli'e dispues mahalan amsun (mas dikiki' na tapun).

Ti siña hu komprende haf' usuña un' pidasitun tapun lau makatdu yan mai' es. Hombre, payun-yu' totchen trosu ke katdu. Lau sumen mañge' na fina' katdu para sopas yan hinegga'.

Dispues, mafattu gi hisasoghu fina' pus natibu gi bandan mantension familia 'nai ha apprubecha haf' gaige gi tanu' yan tasi. Gi dikiki' na komunidan isla 'nai guaha este siha na neñkanu'. Mantension pot katsun satbasion.

Enkatdittun pipinu sumen mañge' na abriganas. Kumu paire mesklamu libianu un' bende gi tendan dikiki' 'sino un' ma-ayudaye taimanu para un' metkau Guahan. Malofan este na attikulu piot gi preparasion gupot fiestan patron i señgsuñg.

Katdun amsun fumanu'e-yu' abilidat natibu bokan satbasion gi luñu' pineapple. Ha esgaihon halum sensian himiddi 'nai hu aksepta umusune haf' guaha.

Tunada: Teñga gi oran deskansoghu hahuñgug un' sumen na'mahalañg na tunada. Un' pueñge hu tatiye mientras hu rasgueo gitala-hu.

Kontodu kantan eskuela ni man-mafana' gue hit antes milalag halum. Manbonitu na sumidu kontodu palabra. Na' mahalañg pot patte gi tunadan 'nai man-famaguon hit.

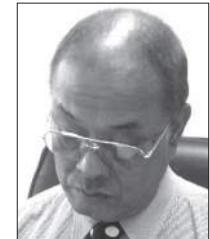
Un' kanta ni sessu hahuñgug: Bendise I Chalan Iya Hame. Ala kuenta kantan despedida pot para u hanau i prohimu mu-marineru ya tai planu bumirague' tatte. Enfin, bonitu pegaña ni palabra siha pot "chalan iya hame".

Minalañgu: Hu soda un' hobensisita gi hospitat ha nanañga i mediku. Hu repara na ni gaputulu i prohima. Hu suspecha na probleman kaset.

Hu gu'ut kanaiña ya manayuyot ham. Hasañgane-yu' dispues na esta tiempu ha nanañga. Hu promesa i patgon na bai hahas-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

sugue' diariu gi tinayuyot-hu. Makat na tiru ya taya' nina' siñahu ke tinayuyot.

Chintsaña: Mampus hana' poduñg esperansag-hu 'nai malagnus gi gasetta dibin halum gobietno-ta mismu tat kumu \$32 miyon pesus na dibin kandet CHC gi CUC.

Masusesede. Rinikohen fondu kada sakan depende gi manu na patte 'nai mangaige hit. Enfin, namagof i sattun na inadahe gi disposition dididi' na kebleta.

Liñguah: Hu e' ekuñgug dos bisnietu gi grasirosu na dibaten niha pot leksion. Lamayot patte gi argumentun dinanche. Lau gi halum rimulinu enteru finu' Eñglis 'nai madiskute i asuntu siha.

Huli'e na ti uma-usa hila' niha gi karera. Ultimoña fuetsau mana' guaha leksion kada gradu gi sistemana edukasion para u fan mafana' gue ni liñguahen niha. Na' triste i abandonau na finana' guen liñguah ni debi umatutuhun gi halum guma' familia.

Kareran para umafatta na man-Chamorro siha lau ni liñguah taigue gi hila' niha.

Rimulinu: Ilegña amiguhu Magu na mampus ti asegurau monedan iya Marianas. Mauleg ta komprende na tai mina iya Marianas ni siña sumustene felis nesessidatña diariamente.

Man-oppe gi Magu gi un' banda, "Na' para ha' manman gasta ni ti presisu sa' mannahuñg hit". Dinanche!

Tana'e animu sumustene i dikiki' na industrian turista. Este 'nai tasosoda' katsun nesessidat-ta siha guine.

'We need help!' Young protesters stand up for Hong Kong democracy against enormous odds

HONG KONG—"We need help!" was the message that flashed on my phone screen Monday morning from 15-year-old Melody.

More messages followed from a group of Hong Kong high school protesters, ages 15 to 17, whom I had interviewed at Hong Kong Polytechnic University on Saturday, a day before it erupted into a flaming battle between students and police.

Their pleas grew increasingly frantic.

"Please help us. Protesters are surrounded by the police, which are almost everywhere around the university," wrote Chris (I am using the students' English nicknames).

"I never thought this would happen in Hong Kong. We just want to help, not to kill."

The student uprisings are the latest chapter of pro-democracy protests that have been raging for six months, since Hong Kong's chief executive, Carrie Lam, proposed that Hong Kongers be able to be extradited to China to face trial in courts controlled by the Communist Party.

Under the "one country, two systems" formula China agreed to when Britain returned Hong Kong to China in 1997, Hong Kong is supposed to keep an independent judiciary and a semi-democratic system until 2047. Lam ignored massive peaceful protests against her bill.

She finally withdrew the bill in September, too late to undo the damage. Students had become infuriated by police brutality, and a hardcore group started using violent tactics. The pro-democracy movement demanded that an independent commission be set up to examine police violence against protesters, a demand backed by 80% of the public.

Lam has refused, and is backed by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The tensions have grown. Several campuses were taken over by students last week after a suspicious death of a student, but

most had been evacuated. PolyU, as the university is abbreviated, was turning into the students' last stand.

Chris, Melody and six buddies rushed to PolyU because they'd seen a call for help on a special phone app.

Every entrance to the PolyU campus — a vast concrete plaza surrounded by university buildings — was blocked by furniture, boxes and other debris, with students checking anyone who passed through. The number of student protesters had shrunk to a few hundred, most dressed in black with black masks over their faces.

But alongside a pedestrian overpass, linked to a university building that overlooks a key traffic tunnel entrance, boxes of homemade gasoline bombs (poured into milk bottles with cloth wicks) sat ready to repel police.

And two students were roaming around with bows and arrows confiscated from the university's archery club (a policeman was hit by an arrow Monday). There was an air of unreality to the scene.

The group of high school kids were not among the weapons carriers. "We are really scared but we want to protect this place," said Chris, a skinny, black-clad 17-year-old with glasses, his face covered in black stretch fabric, a pink and black gas mask hanging around his neck. "All the other universities have fallen. We have to protect the universities, because education represents the future of this city. If we don't save the universities, the next place police will go will be the secondary school. It is only a matter of time."

There was a sense, among these kids, that the democracy they prized hung in the balance. They study civics in school in Hong Kong (a subject Beijing wants to see replaced by "patriotic education" praising the Chinese system). They were incensed that Lam was undermining their rule of law.

I asked Melody, a slight 15-year-old, whether she was ready to go to jail for her beliefs. "No, I am not ready," she said softly. "I

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer



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don't think we can win, but even so, we still have to fight for our democracy. We don't want communism."

Did their parents know they were there? Only one girl said hers knew and gave a green light. Sixteen-year-old Kevin said his parents forbade him, but he went anyway. He left his will at home in case he didn't return.

There was a sweet naivete about these kids, but also a passionate intensity. Hong Kong has been a place that took rule of law seriously — to the point where everyone fastens their seat belts in rear seats because there is a legal requirement.

The idea that police might shoot a demonstrator was unthinkable here a few months ago, as was the idea a student would throw a petrol bomb at a police van. But Lam's hard line has convinced many young people here that "one country, two systems" really means the imposition of China's authoritarian system.

Unless Lam, and Xi, are willing to compromise, the cycle of violence here will continue. So far, the police have rebuffed offers by clerics and legislators to deliver the student holdouts at PolyU to police stations peacefully. They face charges that carry seven- to 10-year jail terms.

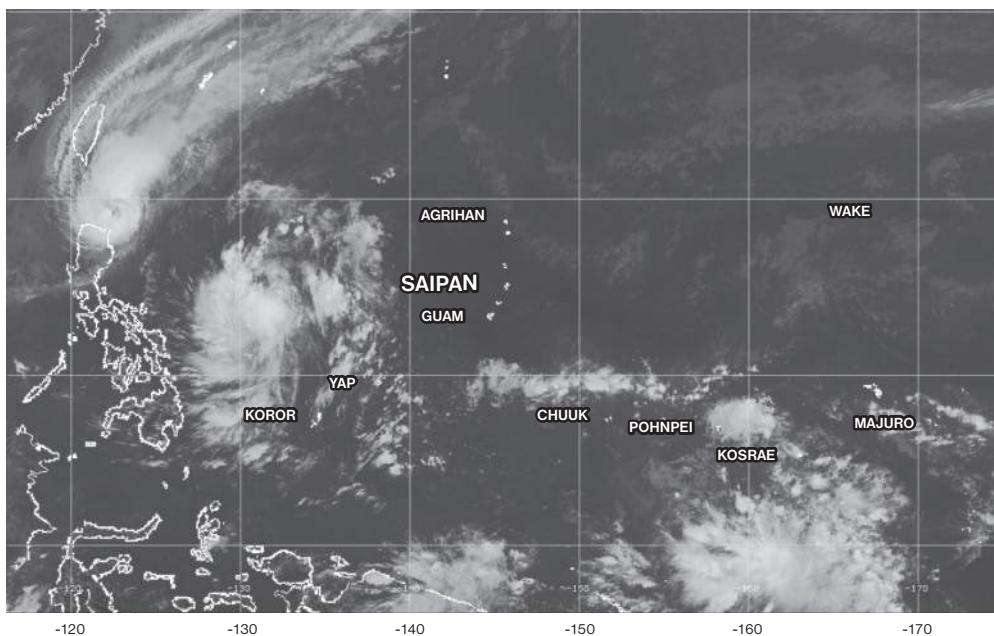
I've tried to reach Chris and Melody and the others with no success, although I know they are still in there, a handful of frightened teenagers standing up for what they believe in against staggering odds.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Breezy. Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| 88° | 77° | 87° | 77° | 88° |
| 77° | 77° | 87° | 77° | 87° |
| 87° | 77° | 88° | 77° | 87° |
| 77° | 77° | 87° | 77° | 77° |

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:36 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Morning satellite and radar imagery show much of the showers that were over the local area Monday have moved west. Drier air will filter into the local area today and 700 mb relative humidity will fall to well below fifty percent. With low deep level moisture, expect only partly cloudy skies and isolated showers through Wednesday night. A surface trough will bring mostly cloudy skies, isolated showers and thunderstorms Thursday and Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ | ▼ | °F |
|---------------|---------------|-----|---|-----|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 84° | / | 79° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 84° | / | 78° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 85° | / | 77° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 86° | / | 79° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 87° | / | 77° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° | / | 76° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 85° | / | 80° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ | ▼ | °F |
|------------------|---------------|-----|---|-----|
| Auckland | Mostly Sunny | 64° | / | 55° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 48° | / | 28° |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | 79° | / | 68° |
| Honolulu | Showers | 84° | / | 75° |
| London | Showers | 46° | / | 39° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 85° | / | 59° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 90° | / | 79° |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 72° | / | 52° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 76° | / | 67° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 52° | / | 39° |
| Osaka | Mostly Sunny | 61° | / | 45° |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 43° | / | 36° |
| Busan | Mostly Sunny | 50° | / | 36° |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | 61° | / | 50° |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | 68° | / | 43° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 63° | / | 48° |
| Seoul | Mostly Cloudy | 48° | / | 32° |
| Tokyo | Rain | 64° | / | 46° |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 59° | / | 46° |

| NMI CRIME STOPPERS | |
|--|--|
| Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following: | |
| ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone | |
| ■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone | |
| ■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net | |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|--|
| 7:19 AM | LOW TIDE | -0.12 | |
| 2:54 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.79 | |
| 9:08 PM | LOW TIDE | 0.96 | |
| - | - | - | |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:20 AM | 5:43 PM |
| Thursday | 6:21 AM | 5:44 PM |
| Friday | 6:21 AM | 5:43 PM |
| Saturday | 6:22 AM | 5:43 PM |
| Sunday | 6:22 AM | 5:43 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 12:54 AM | - |
| Thursday | 12:50 AM | 1:41 PM | - |
| Friday | 1:48 AM | 2:26 PM | - |
| Saturday | 2:45 AM | 3:10 PM | - |
| Sunday | 3:43 AM | 3:55 PM | - |

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2019

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---------|------------|------------------------|---------|-----------|------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117 | 9:15am | 9:55am | Daily | UA174 | 7:30am | 8:10am | Daily |
| UA105 | 6:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4 | UA104 | 4:50pm | 5:30pm | 2, 4 |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 7C3451 | 3:20am | 6:30am | Daily | 7C3452 | 9:35pm | 2:30am+1 | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| | | | | 7C3452 | 10:05pm | 2:30am+1 | 3 |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| TW308 | 2:05am | 6:05am | Daily | OZ6233 | 8:00am | 1:20pm | 2, 4, 6 |
| OZ626 | 2:10am | 6:10am | 1 | OZ623 | 8:55am | 2:30pm | 1, 3, 5, 7 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:25am | 3, 7 | 7C3402 | 10:10am | 3:30pm | Daily |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:40am | 2, 4, 5, 6 | OZ625 | 7:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:35am | 8:35am | Daily | TW307 | 7:45pm | 1:05am+1 | Daily |
| OZ6243 | 3:20pm | 7:10pm | 2, 4, 6 | OZ625 | 8:20pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| OZ624 | 3:50pm | 7:40pm | 1, 3, 5, 7 | 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | Daily |
| 7C3401 | 4:30pm | 8:25pm | Daily | | | | |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:50am | 1, 4, 5, 7 | 3U8647 | 10:30pm | 4:30am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) | | | | HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN | | | |
| JD396 | 7:30am | 12:05pm | 1 | JD395 | 8:05am | 3:30pm | 4 |
| JD396 | 4:50pm | 7:55pm | 4 | JD395 | 8:50pm | 5:00am+1 | 7 |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) | | | | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 3U8646 | 4:30am | 7:50am | 2, 6 | 3U8645 | 8:10pm | 3:10am+1 | 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) | | | | BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN | | | |
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:00am | 3, 5, 7 | MU763 | 4:50pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |
| | | | | | | | |

Business



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's Saipan general manager Jocelyn "Joyce" Asistores, right, is congratulated by McDonald's of Saipan owner/operator Marcia Ayuyu after she was named a recipient of the 2019 McDonald's Global Ray Kroc Award.

PG&E boss says it wasn't fully ready for California outages

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The head of Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. told angry California lawmakers Monday that the nation's largest electric utility wasn't fully prepared for the effects of its unprecedented power outages last month even as it plans to shut off power to more than half a million people again this week to prevent wildfires.

Lawmakers wanted answers from Bill Johnson and executives from the state's other two investor-owned utilities about the shutoffs last month that caused life-saving medication to spoil, businesses to lose money and communications networks to go dark.

PG&E CEO Bill Johnson blamed his company's poor response to the blackouts affecting millions of people partly on a sense of complacency after a much smaller outage went well earlier this year.

"We weren't as well prepared as we thought, and we needed to give a little more attention—to impacts after we shut the power off," Johnson said. "I do think as things

went on, we got better at each one of these."

Lawmakers were skeptical, venting residents' pent-up frustration at the company that is trying to emerge from bankruptcy after its outdated equipment has sparked devastating wildfires in recent years.

Democratic state Sen. Scott Wiener said he believed PG&E had "forfeited its right to operate as an investor-owned utility."

State Sen. Bill Dodd told Johnson that an Oct. 9 shutoff was "a big 'screw you' to your customers."

"That has really created among the Legislature and among your customers a real trust issue," Dodd said.

Meanwhile, people in Northern California were bracing for more outages.

PG&E has started notifying customers in parts of 22 counties that it may turn off electricity Wednesday because of strong winds that could spark wildfires.

The blackout is expected to affect 660,000 people in the San Francisco suburbs, Sierra Nevada foothills, wine country and elsewhere.

Asistores wins McDonald's Global Ray Kroc Award

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan congratulates Jocelyn "Joyce" Asistores, general manager for McDonald's Middle Road, for being named a recipient of the 2019 McDonald's Global Ray Kroc Award.

Asistores, who has been with the company since November 1994, is the first in the Ayuyu organization to receive the prestigious award.

The award is a testament to her dedication and commitment to her team, to the customers that visit her restaurant daily, and to brand McDonald's.

"When you work, you need to put your heart into it. It is not enough to just go perform your duties, you have to give your heart. You have to enjoy your work, and enjoy the people you work with," said Asistores.

"It feels good to receive such an award but I want to give credit to the people who made it possible for me. There would be no award without my managers and crew because they

are the ones who really work hard for me. I maybe their leader, but they are the ones who work hard. Yes, I am getting this recognition, but the credit really is for them," she added.

Originally from the Philippines, Asistores began her career with McDonald's. Since the start of her career, she has excelled in each of her roles as a crewmember, to an area manager, and to her current role as general manager. In 2014, Joyce was given the opportunity to attend McDonald's Hamburger University, a state-of-the-art training center for McDonald's managers and employees, in Chicago, IL.

Upon graduation, she was promoted to general manager for McDonald's Garapan. In August 2019, Asistores was promoted to general manager for McDonald's Middle Road.

Currently, she manages a team of 59 employees. When asked about her work ethic, Joe Ayuyu Jr., McDonald's Saipan area supervisor, said "I am so proud of all the accomplish-

ments Joyce has made thus far and I am confident in her abilities to accomplish much more. She is an inspiration to her team and everyone around her."

Joe Ayuyu Jr. goes on to share that Joyce "embodies the brand McDonald's to the fullest and we are blessed to have her as part of our team. Cheers to 2020 and beyond."

McDonald's of Saipan owner/operator Marcia Ayuyu adds, "Joyce is a very dedicated person and has great people skills. She is a great leader."

With more than 36,000 McDonald's restaurants worldwide, Asistores joins the top 1% of general managers that demonstrate superior performance in their McDonald's restaurant and throughout the McDonald's system. In addition, Asistores is the first Global Ray Kroc Award recipient from the Marianas Islands.

Global Ray Kroc Award

The Global Ray Kroc Award is designed to identify and celebrate the best restaurant

managers across the world. Every two years, McDonald's recognizes the top 1% of general managers that demonstrate superior performance in their restaurants. Each nominee goes through a vigorous nomination process reviewed by field office HR, field operations teams, and nationally. Winners are selected based on a mix of business results and leadership behaviors by esteemed panelists for the GRKA award.

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan, locally owned and operated by franchisees Joe and Marcia Ayuyu, is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. First opened in 1993, the organization includes eight McDonald's restaurants, two on Saipan and six in Guam. In 2016, the Ayuyu's acquired all McDonald's restaurants on Guam and the company remains one of the largest employers in the Marianas Islands. (PR)

GTA TeleGuam incorporates Håfa Adai Pledge at new GTA Experience Center



GTA TeleGuam renews its Håfa Adai Pledge on Nov. 18, 2019 to commemorate the opening of its new GTA Experience Center on Marine Corps Drive in Tamuning and the company's recent rebranding. From left: director of Public Relations and Corporate Citizenship Laura Nelson-Cepeda; GTA vice president of Marketing Eveline Campus; GTA chief executive officer Roland Certeza; GVB president and CEO Pilar Laguña; GTA vice president of Client Services Sharon Davis; and GTA chief operating officer Andrew Gayle.

Cepeda noted, "We are very excited to be renewing our Håfa Adai Pledge today. GTA reaffirms our commitment to preserving and perpetuating our culture and language in our workplace and with our customers. With our company's rebranding, the tronkon niyok in the GTA logo shows that GTA has been rooted in our community and our island for over 60 years."

The Guam Visitors Bureau congratulates GTA on

its impressive and state-of-the-art Experience Center and extends special thanks to the 450 GTA employees for sharing and promoting the island's culture to their customers, co-workers, and families. Si Yu'os Ma'åse' for making Guam a better place to live, work, and visit.

About the Håfa Adai Pledge

The Håfa Adai Pledge is celebrating its 10-year anniversary as the cornerstone of the Guam Visitors Bureau's local community branding program. The Håfa Adai Pledge program has grown steadily in the number of participants as well as the content of individual pledges since its inception in 2009. More than 926 private businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, organizations and local school children have taken the pledge, representing more than 44,000 individuals locally and abroad. (PR)

Nation

Diplomat says of Trump Ukraine call: 'I remember it vividly'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The phone call State Department official David Holmes overheard between President Donald Trump and Ambassador Gordon Sondland lasted just two minutes. But it won't be easily forgotten.

"I've never seen anything like this," Holmes told Trump impeachment investigators, "someone calling the President from a mobile phone at a restaurant, and then having a conversation of this level of candor, colorful language. There's just so much about the call that was so remarkable that I remember it vividly."

Holmes' first-hand account of the conversation heard over lunch in Kyiv provides a key piece of the impeachment inquiry. He is among the only witnesses testifying so far to show Trump personally seeking investigations into Democrats and his potential 2020 rival Joe Biden that are central to the probe.

A transcript of Holmes' closed-door testimony was released Monday. Holmes, a political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, is scheduled to testify publicly Thursday.

The conversation between the president and the ambassador came one day after the July 25 call when Trump asked Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy for a favor with the investigations. At the time, the Trump administration was withholding \$391 million in military aid to the ally in what Democrats say amounts to



AP
David Holmes, the political counsel at the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, leaves the Capitol Hill, Friday, Nov. 15, 2019, in Washington, after he testified before congressional lawmakers as part of the House impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump.

"bribery." Trump says he did nothing wrong. A whistleblower's complaint about it led the House to launch the impeachment inquiry.

Holmes joined Sondland and others during the lunch meeting and told investigators Trump was talking so loudly he could hear the president clearly on the ambassador's phone.

"I then heard President Trump ask, quote, 'So he's going to do the investigation?'" Holmes testified.

"Ambassador Sondland replied that 'He's going to do it,' adding that President Zelenskiy will, quote, 'do anything you ask him to.'"

Holmes said he didn't take notes of the conversation he overheard between Trump and Sondland but remembers it "vividly."

Pressed during the closed-session interview if anyone helped him recall the details, Holmes said, "that wouldn't have been needed, sir, because, as I said, the event itself

was so distinctive that I remember it very clearly."

A transcript was also released late Monday from an interview with David Hale, the State Department's No. 3 official.

Hale was questioned earlier

this month about the abrupt removal of the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, who delivered chilling testimony last week about her ouster amid a "smear" campaign by Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

Police chief: 3 people killed in Oklahoma Walmart shooting

DUNCAN, Oklahoma (AP)—Two men and a woman were fatally shot Monday morning outside a Walmart store in southwestern Oklahoma, and the shooter is among the dead, authorities said.

Two victims were shot inside a car and the third died in the parking lot just before 10 a.m. outside the store in Duncan, Police Chief Danny Ford said.

Authorities did not immediately describe a motivation for the shooting. Ford told The Associated Press that investigators believe the gunman shot the male and female victims and then turned the gun on himself.

Stephens County District Attorney Jason Hicks authorities said during the news conference Monday afternoon that there was never an active shooter inside the store and he described the shooting as an

isolated incident. He did not further explain.

Hicks said the two victims had been inside the Walmart Money Center, which offers check-cashing, money orders, tax preparation and other services, before they were killed, but that the shooter did not enter the business.

Two bodies covered with sheets were visible in the parking lot Monday afternoon. One body was in the driver's seat of a red, two-door car. The other body was lying on the ground next to the vehicle.

Bullet holes were visible in the car's windshield. Police said in a Facebook post that a handgun was found at the scene. At the news conference, Ford described the gun as semi-automatic but said he had no further details. He said the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation was still processing the scene.

Ford said he believed nine shots were fired.

Authorities have not released the identities of those killed but did confirm the shooter was among the dead. Ford said all three knew each other but declined to describe their relationships or other identifying information pending notification of immediate family.

He said all three were dead when police arrived just minutes after the shooting.

Walmart spokeswoman Mia Jenkins initially said no staff were involved. Jenkins later released a statement offering thoughts and prayers for the family of the woman killed in the shooting, who she said had been with the company for less than two months. Jenkins said the woman was at the Walmart during her free time and wasn't scheduled to work that day.

CRIPPLE CREEK, Colo. (AP)—A Colorado rancher was sentenced to life in prison without parole Monday shortly after a jury convicted him of beating his fiancée to death with a baseball bat and setting the woman's remains on fire to hide the evidence.

Patrick Frazee was convicted of first-degree murder and other charges after the jury deliberated four hours before returning its verdict. Less than an hour later, a judge sentenced him to the life term, plus 156 years, the mandatory sentence after prosecutors previously decided not to seek the death penalty.

"Your actions were vicious, senseless, without reason or explanation," Judge Scott Sells told Frazee.

Prosecutors said Frazee, 33, killed Kelsey Berreth, a 29-year-old flight instructor and the mother of their 1-year-old, in her home. She was last seen with her infant daughter on a grocery store video on Thanksgiving Day 2018. Her body was never found.

Frazee showed no reaction to the verdict, while Berreth's family sobbed and hugged

one another.

With little physical evidence, prosecutors relied heavily on the testimony of

Krystal Lee, a former nurse who has known Frazee for over a decade, and the location of Frazee's and Berreth's cellphones in the days after she disappeared.

Lee, who lives in Hansen, Idaho, testified that Frazee asked her to clean up the scene of the killing and that she watched him burn a plastic tote she believed contained

Berreth's body.

Lee acknowledged she took Berreth's cellphone with her to Idaho at Frazee's request to try to deceive investigators about Berreth's whereabouts. She reached a plea deal with prosecutors for tampering with evidence and faces up to three years in prison.

Frazee's lawyers used the plea deal to question how honest Lee was about what happened since she initially told authorities she did not know who Berreth was.

Lee said Frazee tried to convince her to kill Berreth several times before he called to tell her that he had a mess at

As the undersecretary of State for political affairs, Hale said he repeatedly pushed for a State Department statement defending the ambassador, who spent a 33-year career in the foreign service. But that effort failed.

He said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "most likely" would have been the person to make the decision not to publicly support Yovanovitch.

Hale provided new information with call records showing Pompeo and Giuliani had been in touch twice, on March 28 and March 29, around the time of her ouster. Hale is set to testify publicly Wednesday.

The impeachment inquiry is bringing to light the oversized role Giuliani is playing in Trump's Ukraine policy, in what other diplomats have suggested amounts to a shadow diplomacy, outside of official channels.

Holmes said it became clear Giuliani was pursuing the investigations Trump wanted.

"Mr. Giuliani was promoting the investigations issue," Holmes testified. "I guess I would say that Giuliani was sort of meddling in Ukrainian affairs by asking them to open an investigation that would — could be perceived as meddling in U.S. politics."

Rancher gets life in prison in beating death of his fiancee

Berreth's home and he needed her to drive to Colorado to clean it up.

According to her account, Frazee covered Berreth's eyes with a sweater and asked her to smell some candles before he started beating her while the couple's 1-year-old daughter was in a storage room. Lee testified that Frazee said Berreth's last words were "Please stop."

Cheryl Berreth, Kelsey's mother, said in a letter to the court that Frazee tortured her daughter to death and left her young granddaughter to "call out for mama in the middle of the night."

"He not only killed our daughter—his child's mother—but he chose a horrible death for her," she said.

A partial human tooth was found on Frazee's property where Lee says the bag was burned, but it did not have enough DNA to determine whom it belonged to. An expert testified that the burned plastic residue found next to a spot of oily dirt was consistent with a body being burned but acknowledged that motor oil could have left a similar stain.

Asia

HONG KONG (AP)—Police tightened their siege of a university campus where hundreds of protesters remained trapped overnight Tuesday in the latest dramatic episode in months of protests against growing Chinese control over the semi-autonomous city.

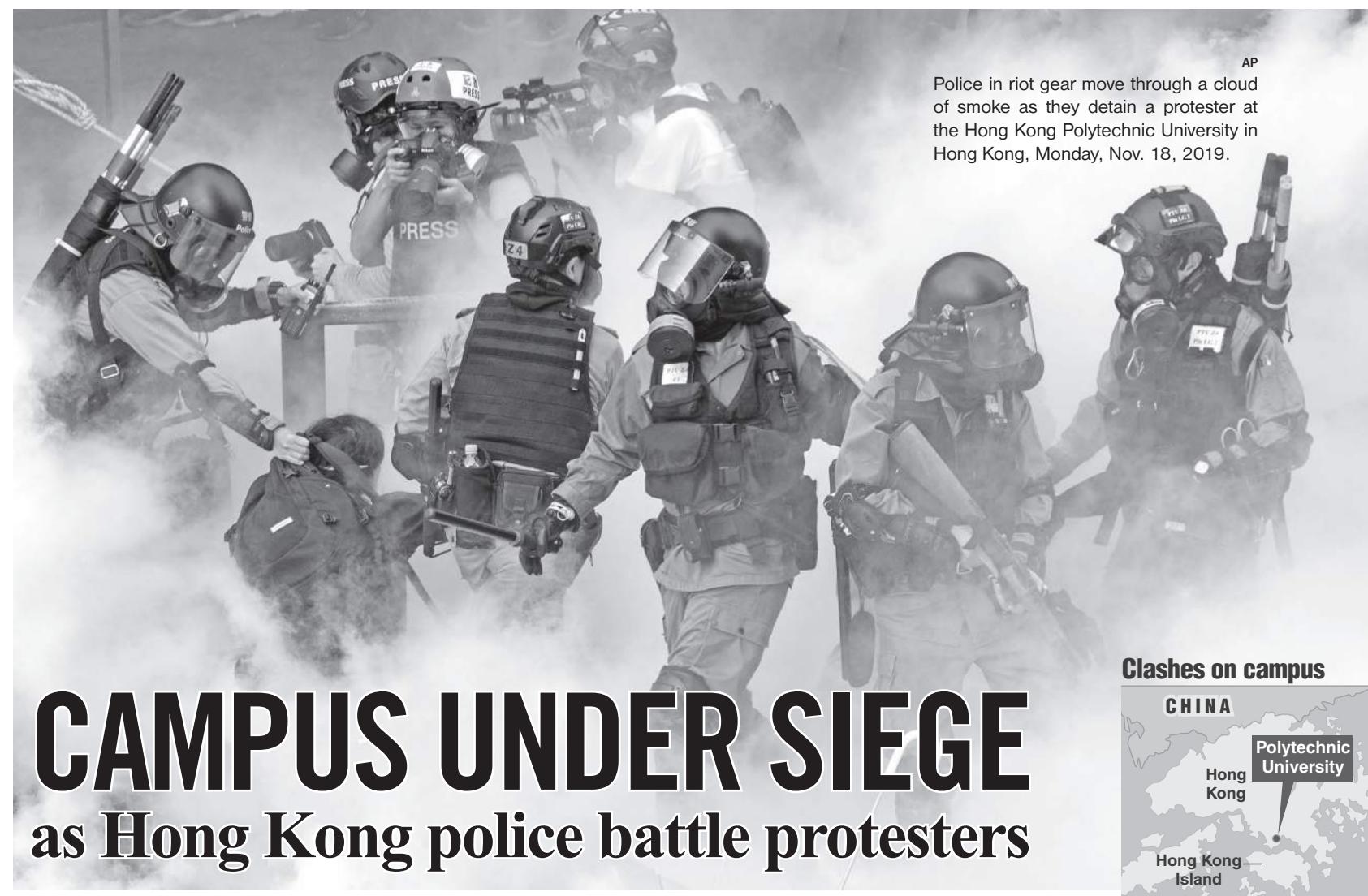
In yet another escalation for the movement, protests raged across other parts of the city, fueled by palpable public anger over the police blockade of Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the desire to help the students stuck inside.

Now in its fifth month, the Hong Kong protest movement has steadily intensified as local and Beijing authorities harden their positions and refuse to make concessions. Universities have become the latest battleground for the protesters, who used gasoline bombs and bows-and-arrows in their fight to keep riot police backed by armored cars and water cannon off of two campuses in the past week.

China, which took control of the former British colony in 1997 promising to let it retain its autonomy, flexed its muscles, sending troops outside their barracks over the weekend in a cleanup operation.

China's ambassador to Britain accused the U.K. and the U.S. of meddling in the country's internal affairs and warned that the Chinese government "will not sit on our hands" if the situation in Hong Kong "becomes uncontrollable."

"These rioters, they are also criminals. They have to face the consequences of their acts," said Cheuk Hau-yip, the



AP
Police in riot gear move through a cloud of smoke as they detain a protester at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong, Monday, Nov. 18, 2019.

CAMPUS UNDER SIEGE as Hong Kong police battle protesters

commander of Kowloon West district, where Polytechnic University is located.

Police in riot gear move through a cloud of smoke at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

"Other than coming out to surrender, I don't see that there's any viable option for them," he said, adding that police have the ability and resolve to end the standoff.

Authorities, meanwhile, were dealt a setback Monday when Hong Kong's high court struck down a contentious ban on wearing face masks in public imposed last month, ruling it unconstitutional.

The pitched battle for control of Hong Kong Polytechnic University began last week as demonstrators for days fortified the campus to keep the police out. On Monday, cornered by security forces determined to arrest them, they desperately tried to get out but faced a cordon of officers armed with tear gas and water cannons.

Senior government officials said they were trying to de-escalate the situation and urged the protesters to leave peacefully and cooperate with police—advice that seemed certain to lead to arrests and therefore strengthened the

protesters' resolve to resist.

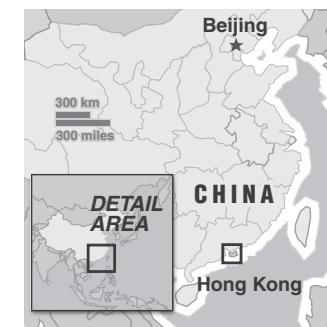
Before dawn on Tuesday, police allowed a group of minors to leave the campus after their high school principals secured a promise that they could go home safely. Police took down the teenagers' details and they could still face prosecution later, local broadcaster RTHK reported.

The teens, some wearing masks to protect against tear

gas, were seen hugging their principal as they left the cordoned-off university campus.

A day earlier, security forces repelled one escape attempt with tear gas, driving hundreds of protesters back onto the campus. Later, huge crowds of supporters advanced on foot toward the police from outside the cordon to try to disrupt the police operation.

Clashes on campus



Sources: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

ASIAN BRIEFS

S. Korean fishing boat catches fire; 1 dead, 11 missing

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A fishing boat caught fire in South Korea's southern waters early Tuesday, killing at least one fisherman and triggering a search for 11 others missing, coast guard officials said. Rescue workers found one of the fishermen unconscious in waters 7.4 kilometers (4.6 miles) south of the boat and airlifted him to a hospital on the nearby island of Jeju where he was pronounced dead. The coast guard and navy were deploying boats, helicopters and a patrol plane to search the waters near the island for survivors, said Lee Geun-han, an official from the coast guard in Jeju. Six of the boat's crew members are South Koreans, including the man killed, and the other six are Vietnamese, Lee said. Rescue efforts, which also involved civilian fishing vessels, were being slowed by strong winds and large waves in the area. Lee said the coast guard received a report about the fire at around 7 a.m. A coast guard helicopter found the boat about an hour later, and the upper side of the vessel had been burned completely. Photos released by the coast guard showed the 29-ton boat engulfed in black smoke. The fishing boat departed from the mainland port of Tongyeong on Nov. 8 to catch hairtail and had planned to return to the port on Monday. President Moon Jae-in's office said he instructed officials to deploy "every resource of the government" in the search effort.

Avalanche hits Indian army post in Himalayas, 6 killed

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—An avalanche hit an Indian army post Monday on a Himalayan glacier in the disputed Kashmir region, killing four soldiers and their two civilian porters, the army said. The avalanche happened at height of more than 5,485 meters (17,995 feet) in the northern part of the Siachen Glacier. Rescuers pulled six soldiers and two porters from the snow, said army spokesman Lt. Col. Abhinav Navneet. They were taken by helicopter to a military hospital, where the four soldiers and the two porters died, Navneet said. The surviving two soldiers were undergoing treatment, he said. The group was on patrol near the post when the area was hit by the avalanche, Navneet said. The post was also hit by the avalanche but there were no reports of injuries there. The glacier is on the northern tip of the divided Kashmir region claimed by India and Pakistan in an area known as the world's highest battlefield. The two countries have had troops deployed there since 1984 at elevations of up to 6,700 meters (21,982 feet). There have been intermittent skirmishes since then, but more soldiers have died from harsh weather than from combat. In 2017, at least 20 Indian soldiers were killed in three avalanches. In 2012, an avalanche in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir killed 140 people, including 129 Pakistani soldiers.

Indonesia arrests 43 people following suicide attack

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police said Monday that they have arrested 43 suspected militants believed to have links to last week's suicide attack at a busy police station in the country's third-largest city.

National police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said those arrested are suspected members of a local affiliate of the Islamic State group known as the Jama'ah Anshorut Daulah. He said police seized explosives, guns, knives, arrows and jihadi documents from the suspects.

The arrests were made in seven provinces and include the group's leader, Prasetyo said at a news conference in the capital, Jakarta.

The Nov. 13 suicide bomb-

ing involving a lone attacker in Medan wounded six people. Among the suspects arrested in the raids were 20 members of JAD who have attended military-style jihadi training in North Sumatra's Mount Sibayak, Prasetyo said.

Police on Saturday killed two suspected militants in a shootout in North Sumatra province's Hamparan Perak village. Police said they believe the two were the bombmakers in the Medan attack.

A day later, four suspects surrendered to authorities, Prasetyo said.

JAD has been implicated in numerous attacks in Indonesia over the past two years and was designated a terror organization by the U.S. in 2017.

An Indonesian court banned

the network a year later and asked the government to strangle its funding and support.

In May last year, two families carried out suicide bombings at churches in Indonesia's second-largest city, Surabaya, killing a dozen people. Police said the father was the head of a local JAD cell.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, has been battling militants since bombings on the resort island of Bali in 2002 killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists. Attacks aimed at foreigners have been largely replaced in recent years by smaller, less deadly strikes targeting the government, mainly police and anti-terrorism forces and local "infidels."

World

Iran downplays, demonizes protests amid internet shutdown

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iran on Monday alternatively downplayed and demonized ongoing protests across the country that have killed at least five people and renewed pressure on the government as the country struggles under the weight of U.S. economic sanctions.

The full scale of the protests, which began shortly after a 50% increase in gas prices took effect early Friday, was unknown after Tehran shut down the internet over the weekend, blocking Iranians from sharing videos and

information with the outside world. Before the shutdown late Saturday, some of the protest videos circulating online included sound of gunfire and appeared to show gravely wounded people.

State media and authorities have released little information and a government spokesman predicted during a news conference that the unrest would be over in two days. But the spokesman, Ali Rabiei, also said demonstrators had taken police officers and security forces hostage. He did not release any details.

The protests were prompted by widespread anger among the Iranian people, who have seen their savings evaporate amid scarce jobs and the collapse of the national currency, the rial, since President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear deal over a year ago and imposed sanctions. The rial now trades at over 123,000 to \$1, compared to 32,000 to \$1 at the time the deal took effect.

Tehran's streets were emptier than usual Monday in what is a generally busy capital on a cold and rainy November day.

Shops saw few customers as uniformed police and plain-clothes security forces walked the streets. The all-volunteer force of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, known as Basij, said it was helping maintain security.

Speaking to journalists, Rabiei said mask-wearing protesters were "exercising very high levels of violence very professionally," but insisted the protests would soon end.

"Today the situation was calmer—more than 80% compared to yesterday," the spokesman said. "Only some minor

problems remain, and by tomorrow and the day after, there will remain no special riots."

The head of the Basij, Gen. Gholamreza Soleimani, said protest leaders had been arrested, but he did not elaborate.

"The security forces have dealt with the protesters by practicing restraint and patience," the general said. "Destruction and disturbances have been done by rioters that we refer to as thugs and hoodlums."

Iran has sought to blame violence on those linked to Iran's

late shah, ousted 40 years ago, and an exile group called the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq. The MEK calls for the overthrow of Iran's government and has the support of Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani.

President Hassan Rouhani, who pushed for the hike in gas prices as part of a promise to increase payments to Iran's poor, warned that authorities could track protesters by their license plates. During the unrest, demonstrators abandoned their cars on major highways, blocking traffic.



This photo released by the Iranian Students' News Agency, ISNA, shows cars drive past a scorched public bus that remained on the street after protests that followed authorities' decision to raise gasoline prices, in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019.

US angers Palestinians with reversal on Israeli settlements

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration on Monday said it no longer considers Israeli settlements in the West Bank to be a violation of international law, reversing four decades of American policy and further undermining the Palestinians' effort to gain statehood.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the U.S. is repudiating the 1978 State Department legal opinion that held that civilian settlements in the occupied territories are "inconsistent with international law." Israeli leaders welcomed the decision while Palestinians and other nations warned that it undercut any chance of a broader peace deal.

Pompeo told reporters at the State Department that the Trump administration believes any legal questions about settlements should be resolved by

Israeli courts and that declaring them a violation of international law distracts from larger efforts to negotiate a peace deal.

"Calling the establishment of civilian settlements inconsistent with international law has not advanced the cause of peace," Pompeo said. "The hard truth is that there will never be a judicial resolution to the conflict, and arguments about who is right and who is wrong as a matter of international law will not bring peace."

The change reflects the administration's embrace of a hard-line Israeli view at the expense of the Palestinian quest for statehood. Similar actions have included President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the movement of the U.S. Embassy to that city and the closure of the Pal-

estinian diplomatic office in Washington.

"The U.S. administration has lost its credibility to play any future role in the peace process," said Nabil Abu Rdeneh, a spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The European Union warned of the potential repercussions in a statement following the announcement that did not mention the U.S.

"All settlement activity is illegal under international law and it erodes the viability of the two-state solution and the prospects for a lasting peace," said the statement from the 28-nation bloc. "The EU calls on Israel to end all settlement activity, in line with its obligations as an occupying power."

Even though the decision is largely symbolic, it could give a boost to Israeli Prime Min-

ister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is fighting for his political survival after failing to form a coalition government following recent elections.

It could also spell further trouble for the administration's peace plan, which is unlikely to gather much international support by endorsing a position contrary to the global consensus.

The Netanyahu government was dealt a blow on settlements just last week when the European Court of Justice ruled products made in Israeli settlements must be labeled as such.

The 1978 legal opinion on settlements is known as the Hansell Memorandum. It had been the basis for more than 40 years of carefully worded U.S. opposition to settlement construction that had varied in its tone and strength, depending on the president's position.

WORLD BRIEFS

Brazil says Amazon deforestation is worst since 2008

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest is at its worst in more than a decade, a government report said Monday, undermining officials' claims that concerns by environmentalists have been overblown. Deforestation between August 2018 and July 2019 reached 9,762 square kilometers (3,769 square miles), a 30% increase over the previous year, Brazil's National Institute for Space Research said. The area of deforestation is the largest recorded since 2008 and is about the size of the U.S. states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined.

Concern about the Amazon heightened after President Jair Bolsonaro took office in January. His administration has advocated the loosening of protections around natural reserves and indigenous lands as a way to promote economic development. Environmentalists and nonprofit groups have accused the government of trying to weaken environmental legislation, warning that deforestation would likely worsen as a result.

Dutch court sentences Pakistani of threat to kill Wilders

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—A Dutch court sentenced a Pakistani man Monday to 10 years in prison for plotting a terror attack on anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders. The 27-year-old man, whose identity was not released by The Hague District Court, was given a higher sentence Monday than the six years sought by prosecutors. Judges said they imposed the higher sentence because of factors including the suspect's ongoing aim to kill Wilders. They con-

demned the man's plan to attack Wilders as an assault on Dutch democracy and freedom of speech. "Kudos for these judges," Wilders said in a tweet. Death threats are part of Wilders' daily life because of his strident anti-Islam rhetoric. He has lived in safe houses and under round-the-clock protection for years. The court said the 27-year-old traveled to the Netherlands in August last year planning to kill Wilders because of a competition the politician was organizing featuring cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. The contest was eventually canceled.

Georgian police move to disperse large protest in Tbilisi

MOSCOW (AP)—Police in riot gear in the country of Georgia pushed thousands of demonstrators away from the parliament building Monday on the second day of sizeable protests in the Georgian capital over the failure of promised election reforms. Officers in black helmets and riot shields advanced down Rustaveli Prospekt, Tbilisi's main avenue, while other police jostled with demonstrators who were blocking the parliament building's entrance. Police used water cannon to disperse the protesters. The Interior Ministry said that four protesters and two police officers were hurt in the melee, and 37 people were detained. The protests Monday were sparked by last week's vote in parliament against a proposed change to the country's electoral system to ensure that all seats in the legislature are assigned by proportional representation, instead of around half. The change had been promised by the governing Georgian Dream party in the wake of massive demonstrations in June.

Focus

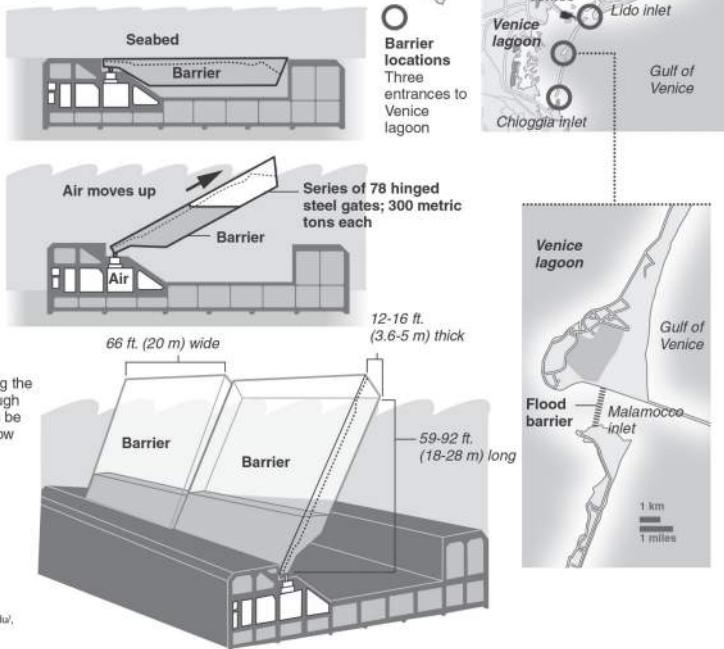


What happened to the flood barriers?

With flood levels in the Venice reaching the second-highest level since records began in 1923, residents are wondering, what happened to the flood barriers. After construction work on the barrier began in 2003, it has been hit by soaring costs, scandals and delays. The original completion date was set for 2014, then 2016, and the latest official estimates now say the barrier system won't be ready until the end of 2021.

How barriers will work

1 Barrier will stay on the seabed until high tides and storms are forecast



2 Air is pumped into each hollow gate, causing it to rise to the surface, it takes 30 minutes to rise and only 15 minutes to return

3 Each gate moves independently, allowing the barrier to deal with rough seas; lagoon level can be up to 4 ft. (1.4 m) below sea level

- Project name MOSE
- Cost \$5.5-10.4 billion (3.5-4.2 billion euros)
- In operation By 2021

Source: www.engineering.iastate.edu, www.salve.it, BBC

AP
A Venetian citizen carries her dog Nana as she walks in a flooded street of Venice, Italy, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019. Venetians are bracing for the prospect of another exceptional tide in a season that is setting new records. Officials are forecasting a 1.6 meter (5 feet, 2 inches) surge of water Sunday through the lagoon city.

By COLLEEN BARRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VENICE, Italy (AP)—One of only four oar makers for Venice's famed gondoliers, Paolo Brandolisio wades through his ground-floor workshop for the third time in a week of record-breaking floods, despairing of any help from national or local institutions.

"If these phenomena continue to repeat themselves, you have to think about how to defend yourself," he says. "Because the defenses that the politicians have made don't seem to be nearly enough."

"You have to think of yourself," he repeats.

Venetians are fed up with what they see as inadequate responses to the city's mounting problems: record-breaking flooding, environmental and safety threats from cruise ship traffic and the burden on services from over-tourism.

They feel largely left to their own devices, with ever-fewer Venetians living in the historic part of the city to defend its interests and keep it from becom-

ing mainly a tourist domain.

The historic flooding this week—marked by three floods over 1.5 meters (nearly 5 feet) and the highest in 53 years at 1.87 meters (6 feet, 1 inch)—has sharpened calls to create an administration that recognizes the uniqueness of Venice, for both its concentration of treasures and its increasing vulnerability.

Flood damage has been estimated at hundreds of millions of euros (dollars), but the true scope will only become clear with time. Architectural masterpieces like St. Mark's Cathedral still need to be fully inspected and damaged manuscripts from the Music Conservatory library treated by experts—not to mention the personal losses suffered by thousands of residents and businesses.

"I feel ashamed," said Fabio Moretti, the president of Venice's historic Academy of Fine Arts that was once presided over by Tiepolo and

Canova. "These places are left in our custody. They don't belong to us. They belong to humanity. It is a heritage that needs to be preserved."

The frustration goes far beyond the failure to complete and activate 78 underwater barriers that were designed to prevent just the kind of damage that Venice has endured this week. With the system not yet completed or even partially tested after 16 years of work and 5 billion euros (\$5.5 billion) invested, many are skeptical it will even work.

"This is a climate emergency. This is sick governance of the city," said Jane Da Mosto, an environmental scientist and executive director of the NGO "We Are Here Venice," whose aim it is to keep Venice a living city as opposed to a museum or theme park.

Brandolisio, the oar builder, sees systemic lapses in the official response, including the failure of local authorities to organize services imme-

dately for those in need, an absence filled by volunteers. That included both a network of students who helped clear out waterlogged property for those in need and professionals like water-taxi drivers who offered transport during the emergency.

For now, he is taking matters into his own hands.

To protect his bottega where he not only makes oars but carves ornamental oar posts for gondolas or as sculpture, Brandolisio said he will have to consider raising the floor by at least 20 centimeters and buying a pump—precautions he never previously deemed necessary.

"I think I will lose at least two or three weeks of work," he said. "I will have to dry everything. Lots of things fell into the water, so I need to clean all the tools that can get rusty. I need to take care of wood that got wet, which I can't use because it cannot be glued."

At the public level, propos-

als for better administering the city including granting some level of autonomy to Venice, already enjoyed by some Italian regions like Trentino-Alto-Adige with its German-speaking minority, or offering tax breaks to encourage Venice's repopulation.

Just 53,000 people live in the historic part of the city that tourists know as Venice, down by a third from a generation ago and dropping by about 1,000 people a year. The population of the lagoon islands—including glass-making Murano and the Lido beach destination—is just under 30,000, and dwindling too.

That means fewer people watching the neighborhood, monitoring for public maintenance issues or neighbors in need. Many leave because of the increased expense or the daily difficulties in living in a city of canals, which can make even a simple errand a minor odyssey.

Activists also say local politicians are more beholden

to the city's mainland population, which has jumped to 180,000 people not directly affected, for the most part, by the same issues as the lagoon dwellers.

They are pushing for passage of a referendum on Dec. 1 that would give the historic center and islands their own administration, separate from that serving more populous Mestre and the industrial port of Marghera. Those areas were annexed to Venice by the Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, and not necessarily a natural fit.

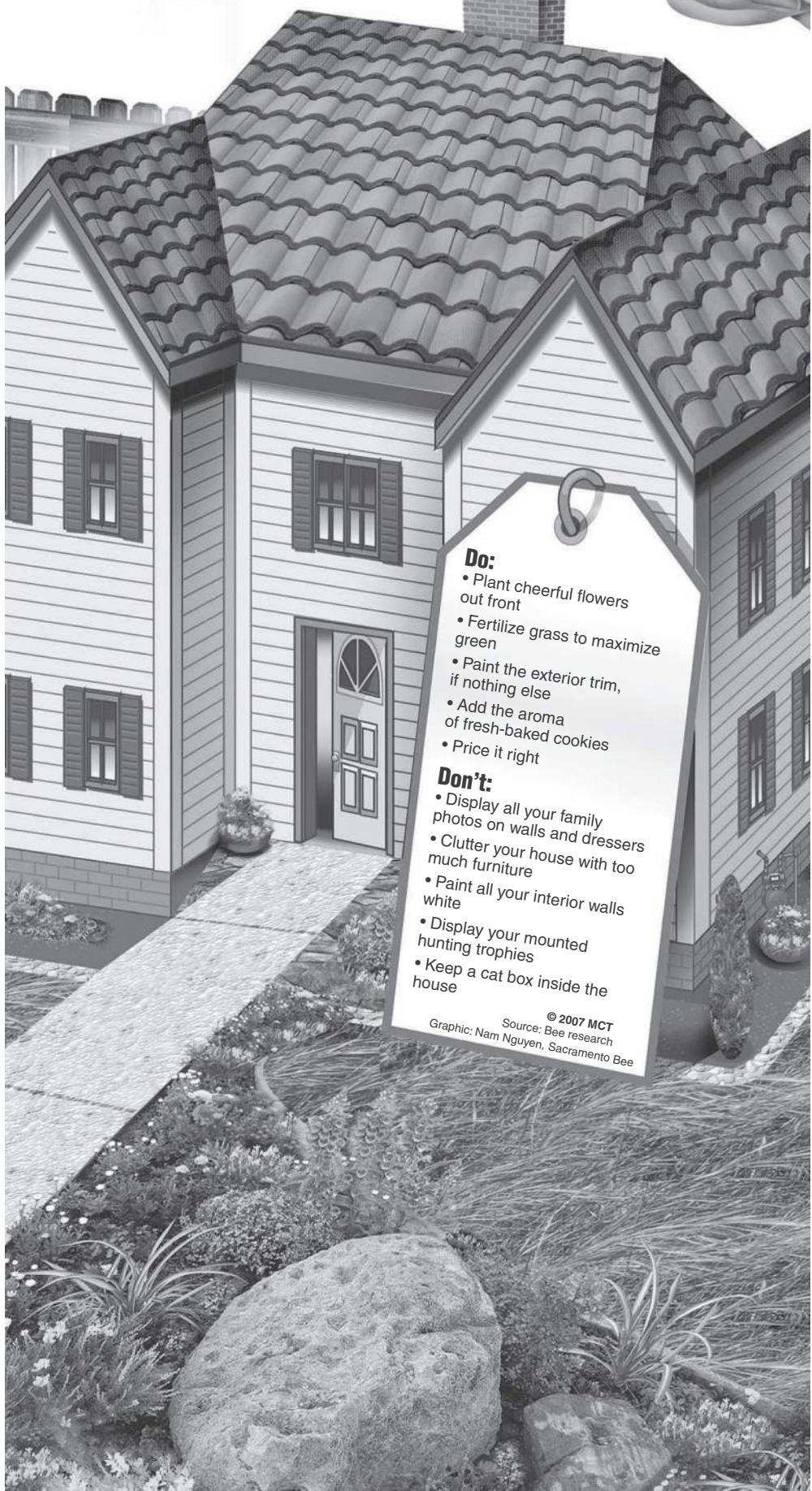
"It is precisely because we also have a climate emergency that this kind of thing is more important," Da Mosto said.

"The only thing we can do for the climate is to prepare. That requires appropriate policies and investments and responsible engineering. And because the political context of Venice is so wrong, Venice doesn't have a chance at the moment."

Good Housekeeping

Get your house primed

Here's a list of quick tips to make your house more appealing to would-be buyers.



Tile's patterns, designs expand

By KIM COOK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

People have been surfacing floors and walls in tile for hundreds of years; it's one of our oldest materials.

But the industry keeps reinventing the product. Digital printing and fabricating advances can now realistically replicate wood, metal, textile, leather, brick and paper in a sustainably made, durable tile form.

"Tile companies have made great strides in suspending my disbelief that these aren't actual stone, or other real materials," says New York-based designer Daniel VanHall. "A lot of the really imaginative designs are like theater in tile form; it's pretty exciting."

MATERIALS MATCH-UP

The blending of materials on a single tile makes for interesting floor layouts. Today's iterations of wood-look tile are almost indistinguishable from the real deal, since realistic hues and textures can be printed onto slab, plank or square tiles.

The tech is also being used to marry disparate materials into cool new versions: pieces of wood paired with slivers of metal, say, or wood embedded in stone. The juxtapositions are intriguing, and easier both to install and walk on than if real wood, real metal and concrete were fused together. Sant'Agostino's Timewood has a geometric pattern of wood-look strips in a cement-look matrix; Provenza's Alter takes the look of shards and panels of reclaimed oak and blends it seamlessly with a ceramic base to create a kicky, midcentury modern design.

Antique silks were the inspiration for Florim's Filati di Rex collection, comprised of floral, jacquard, baroque and geometric patterns drawn from the renowned Italian fabric house Rubelli. Tile designers are also using antique rugs and tapestries as inspiration.

VINTAGE MODERN

Nancy Epstein of Artistic Tile sees a resurgence in age-old techniques like encaustic tile, where the pattern is made with pigmented cement rather than painted on.

"We're finding that people are much more open to color and pattern than they've been for years," she says.

This year, at both Cersaie, Italy's international tile fair held in Bologna, and Cevisama, Spain's version held



AP
This undated photo shows Casalgrande's Padana Limpha tile, which turns hyper-realistic botanical prints into large scale ceramic tile, creating lots of interesting design options for architects and designers.



AP
This undated photo shows Sant'Agostino's Timewood, which creates a wood pattern embedded within cement look tile.



AP
This photo provided by Artistic Tile shows Michael Aram's orchid design transformed into a striking three dimensional ceramic tile by Artistic Tile. The tile has dozens of hand formed flowers on a black or white background. The pattern is also available in a 2D version for floors and other purposes.

in Valencia, there were nostalgic nods to both countries' renowned ceramic history. Matte-finish tiles were printed with motifs referencing centuries-old intarsia and majolica patterns, and designers liked the idea of using them in contemporary spaces.

Cle Tile, based in San Rafael, California, has several artists' collections of handmade encaustic tile, ranging from modern takes on Old West patterns, to midcentury graphics. Erica Tanov has translated some of her vintage textile archive into cool cement tile designs, in on-trend hues of cream, charcoal, federal blue and soft pink. Los Angeles-based graphic designer Joy Cho has created a playful collection inspired by bubbles, streamers and confetti.

And again, the wow factor is how accurately new printing techniques can reproduce leaves, grass or even pebbles. With some of the exceptional versions, like Casalgrande's Padana Limpha ivy-look tile slabs, there's an almost 3-D effect of a "living wall." The Casalgrande tiles are even treated so when they're exposed to sunlight, air pollutants and dirt don't adhere as readily, making them easier to clean.

BOLD BOTANICALS

Katie Michael-Battaglia,

Life & Style

REVIEW:

Hanks anchors a lovely Mister Rogers tale for adults

By LINDSEY BAHR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Director Marielle Heller frames "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" as if it were an episode of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," with miniature sets of cars and bridges to illustrate New York and Pittsburgh. Mr. Rogers, played with clear-eyed purpose by Tom Hanks, introduces the audience to the film's protagonist, journalist Lloyd Vogel (Matthew Rhys), using his "picture window" in that all-too-familiar living room where he's just changed into his sneakers and sweater. It's even rated PG.

But "A Beautiful Day" is not really a children's story at all. It's a story about a man who suffers from the doubly impossible combination of being an adult and an investigative journalist. In other words, he's the person least likely to be charmed by the straightforward sincerity of someone like Fred Rogers.

The film is loosely based on Tom Junod's article "Can You Say... 'Hero?'" which appeared in Esquire Magazine in November of

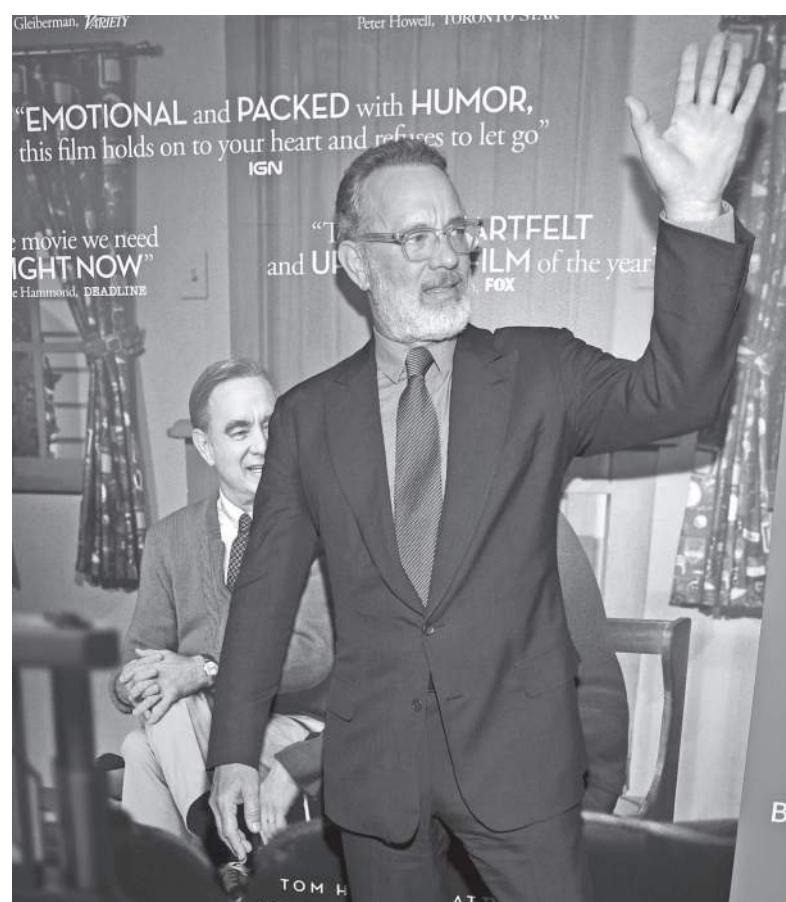
1998. Junod has said that spending time with the then 70-year-old changed him. Cynical at first, the two formed a friendship—Junod's first ever with a subject—that would last until Rogers' death in 2003.

The similarities stop there and the film veers off in its own direction, adding drama and elements that are not part of Junod's life at all (like getting into a fistfight with his father at his sister's wedding, neither of which happened). But as Junod writes in The Atlantic this month, the film "seems like a culmination of the gifts that Fred Rogers gave me and all of us, gifts that fit the definition of grace because they feel, at least in my case, undeserved."

Tom Hanks, left, and Matthew Rhys. (Lacey Terrell/Sony-Tristar Pictures via AP)

Essentially, Fred Rogers' lessons can apply to adults too. And "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" spins its magic to show (not just tell) us how, no matter if it's mostly a fiction from the minds of screenwriters Micah Fitzerman-Blue and Noah Harpster.

The film introduces Lloyd at a par-



Actor Tom Hanks attends a special screening of "A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood" at the Henry R. Luce Auditorium on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019, in New York.

ticularly unstable moment. He's got a newborn son with his wife, Andrea (an understated and excellent Susan Kelechi Watson), and his longestranged father (Chris Cooper) has suddenly started trying to come back into his life. It's under these high-pressure circumstances that his editor (Christine Lahti) assigns him to write a "small piece" about Fred Rogers for the magazine's "heroes issue."

Lloyd scoffs at what he considers a demeaning assignment. He's there to be an investigative journalist and the host of a cheesy children's show is, he thinks, below him. Andrea even asks her husband, knowing what kind of writer he is, to please not ruin her childhood.

He remains skeptical even upon meeting Fred and goes back to his editor to ask for more time, saying

that he "just doesn't think he's for real." Sure, part of you is probably thinking Lloyd a monster. But consider Lloyd's point of view too: Fred uses puppets during his interview and deflects quite a bit on the more pressing questions, often diverting and asking about his interviewer instead of answering.

And yet, his goodness starts to transcend all of that. Heller does a marvelous job illustrating the effect Fred has on those around him. Even the production staff who he infuriates with his tendency to veer off schedule by spending a little too long with visitors, falls in line when he starts to work his singular magic in front of the camera. They know they're making something special.

One scene, that seems almost too schmaltzy to be true, in which a subway car full of adults and children starts serenading Fred with his theme song, actually happened.

Hanks is such an obvious choice to play someone as beloved as Fred Rogers that his performance is something that could be in danger of being taken for granted or overlooked. He just makes it all look so easy—the almost uncomfortably slow way that he speaks. But it's a testament to Hanks that you can't "see" the work. But much like Fred Rogers, you don't have to understand it to be moved.

"A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," a Sony Pictures release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some strong thematic material, a brief fight, and some mild language." Running time: 108 minutes. ★★☆

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Idina Menzel first started performing "Let It Go" live in concerts, she thought the lyrics and soaring vocals would empower all those young girls in the audience dressed up as Elsa.

Instead, Menzel said she often walked away from those performances feeling just as inspired.

"I feel an extreme sense of pride about it," said Menzel, the Tony Award-winning performer who voices Elsa, a fiercely independent queen with the magical ability to manipulate ice and snow. The song especially resonated with her because at the time she was juggling several shows on Broadway and going through a divorce while "trying to put one foot in front of the other."

"But you see a little girl in a blue dress in the second row," she continued. "That's when you realize the song and movie represents them. It's giving them permission to take ownership of who they are, and everything that makes them unique and different. But it's a reciprocity. It's coming back to me exponentially because I need to hear it too."

Menzel believes "Frozen 2," which arrives in theaters Friday, has the capacity to empower young girls, boys and others of all ages in the same way. The new film comes six years after the original broke box office records for an animated film, amassing \$1.2 billion in worldwide ticket sales. It was bolstered by "Let It Go," which won a

'Frozen 2' aiming to build on the power of the original

Grammy and two Oscars.

Jennifer Lee, co-director and writer of both films, said she didn't anticipate the success of "Frozen." Lee said a conversation with a stranger demonstrated the film's impact.

"I met a woman wearing a hand-

made 'Let It Go,' necklace, but she didn't have any idea who I was," Lee said. "She was talking, and I observed. She embraced the movie for herself. She felt the music spoke to her. It seemed to empower her. That's our goal."

Menzel at the "Frozen 2" premiere Nov. 7. (Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP)

Menzel is unsure if the sequel can generate the same astronomical numbers as the original. But she is hopeful the story and music can resonate



Character actors Voice actors from left to right, Kristoff, Anna, Elsa (2nd from right) and Olaf (far right) pose for photographers with voice actors, Josh Gad, centre left, Idina Menzel, centre and Jonathan Groff, centre right, upon arrival at the European premiere of 'Frozen 2', in central London, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019.

with viewers and further the themes of the original, including showing that female characters don't necessarily need their male counterpart to rescue them from distress.

"I think it'll move people," she said. "I think the film is powerful. I don't know what the success of the music will be outside the film. But I know how I felt when I heard (the songs). I know how much I loved recording them and getting inside of them. I think people will learn from Elsa who is always overcoming her fear to take the next step and risk."

In "Frozen 2," Elsa finally embraces her powers, but she finds herself haunted by an unsettling voice from afar that no one else can hear. She ends up going on a dangerous journey to seek answers with her sister Anna, played by Kristen Bell. Also joining them are Anna's boyfriend Kristoff (Jonathan Groff), his reindeer friend Sven and the bubbly snowman Olaf, voiced by Josh Gad.

Jonathan Groff and Josh Gad (Photo by Rebecca Cabage/Invision/AP)

Co-director Chris Buck said the sequel has moments of being "fun and humorous," but the story also delves deep into Elsa and Anna's emotions. He said the main characters are trying to find their meaning in life. The film expands on challenges facing Elsa's kingdom of Arendelle, with Sterling K. Brown joining the cast as a military officer and Evan Rachel Wood voicing the sisters' mother.

Chang says his new Netflix show honors Bourdain

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With its food-travel fusion and trips to parts unknown, “Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner” host David Chang says he understands why critics are making comparisons to work done by his late friend and colleague Anthony Bourdain.

“I don’t know how you couldn’t,” said the restaurateur, chef and food personality. “He was a pretty significant person in my life. But, whether we were successful or not, the last thing we would ever want to do is to not be respectful and pay homage. He was a pretty significant person in my life. ... The whole thing was hard to do, for obvious reasons. But, you know, we tried very hard and we were very aware of trying to make it a different show.”

Bourdain, a chef and author, was known for using culinary traditions as a storytelling tool to explore cultures around the globe in his CNN series, “Parts Unknown.” He killed himself in 2018.

Perhaps what’s most different about Chang’s new Netflix series is the sweet and occasionally salty chef himself. His empire includes restaurants, cookbooks and now two Netflix shows. The first, “Ugly Delicious,” debuted in 2018.

The first four episodes of “Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner” pair Chang with celebrities as they explore a city—Chrissy Teigen in Marrakesh, Kate McKinnon in Phnom Penh, Seth Rogen in Vancouver and Lena Waithe in Los Angeles.

It’s with the history-making Waithe—the first black woman to win an Emmy for comedy screenwriting—where



AP
This image released by Netflix shows host David Chang, right, and actor Seth Rogen eating donuts at Lee’s Donuts in Vancouver, Canada, in a scene from the Netflix series, “Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.”

things get most interesting. They chat in a no-frills, suburban Los Angeles diner as the conversation turns to their respective lack of representation in mainstream America. Waithe is gay. Chang’s parents immigrated from Korea in the ’60s.

Representation is an important subject for Chang. In September, he told a Washington Post interviewer that the ethnic food aisles in grocery stores are “the last bastion of racism” in retail America.

In talking to The Associated Press, Chang presented an example. “Why should my hot sauce be in an ethnic food aisle, but Tabasco is in a main aisle?”

Even so, in terms of availability and information, this is a golden age of food, Chang said. Consumers, manufacturers and the culinary industry are better informed than ever. But the ripples from

climate change could lead to a “different kind of food system,” he said.

“We may eat things differently,” he said. “My dad used to tell me, man, ‘When I got an orange once a year, that was the greatest day of my life.’ ... And we may have to go back to that. And I don’t know what that looks like. But we can’t get whatever we want anymore.”

There’s also been personal change for Chang as he and his wife, Grace, became parents with the birth of their son, Hugo.

“It’s definitely, like, you know, everyone says, ‘changes your life,’ and I’m trying to find how to find a better balance,” Chang said. “I’m a work in progress, man. And working a lot is what I know how to do. And I do know that, soon, I’m going to have to learn how not to work so hard.”

Michelle Obama signs ‘Becoming’ copies on book’s anniversary

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michelle Obama marked one year since publication of her best-selling memoir at a book signing in the nation’s capital Monday.

“It’s so good to meet you,” the former first lady told patrons as she signed copies of “Becoming” at a Washington, D.C., bookstore.

More than 11.5 million copies of the memoir have been sold worldwide since it was first published in November 2018.

Mrs. Obama then embarked on a rock-star-style tour of more than 30 cities in the U.S., Canada and Europe to promote the book.

Patrons did not seem to mind the hours-long wait out-

side in the November chill before they were ushered inside the bookstore.

Behind a black curtain, Mrs. Obama sat at a table. The shelves behind her were stacked with copies of “Becoming,” along with an accompanying journal being released Tuesday.

“She looks so much younger than I thought,” one man was overheard saying as he waited in line.

“She looks beautiful,” exclaimed a woman. “Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh,” gushed another woman in line.

Rosalind Myers, an attorney from Rockville, Maryland, told those still waiting outside as she left the store that “it’s

worth the wait.”

Myers said she had missed two previous opportunities to see Mrs. Obama at her book events. But on Monday, Myers was 26th in line.

“She took the time to look me

in the eye, to shake my hand,”

Myers said. “She’s a beautiful

woman inside and out.”

In “Becoming,” Mrs. Obama tells the story of her upbringing on the South Side of Chicago, her academic and professional careers as an attorney and health care executive, her marriage to Barack Obama, their daughters Malia and Sasha, the 2008 presidential campaign and the election that made them the first black U.S. president and first lady.

Lawsuits by Michael Jackson accusers likely to be restored

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California appeals court appeared strongly inclined Monday to give new life to lawsuits filed by two men who accuse Michael Jackson of repeatedly molesting them when they were boys.

Three judges from the 2nd District Court of Appeal said in a tentative ruling that lawsuits from James Safechuck and Wade Robson against two corporate entities that Jackson owned should be reconsidered by the trial court that dismissed them in 2017.

Robson, 37, and Safechuck, 41, who became known to a broad audience when they aired their accusations earlier this year in the Emmy-winning HBO documentary “Leaving Neverland,” sat together in a downtown Los Angeles courtroom during Monday’s brief hearing.

Outside, their attorney Vince Finaldi said the decision was the right one, and they are pleased.

“All they’ve ever wanted is their day in court,” Finaldi said.

The suits filed in 2013 that were dismissed because statutes of limitations had expired can be revived because of new state law signed last month by Gov. Gavin Newsom that gives those who say they were sexually abused until age 40, up from age 26, to file lawsuits. It also gives victims of all ages a three-year window to sue, starting Jan. 1.

The Associated Press does not typically name victims of sexual abuse, but Robson and Safechuck have repeatedly come forward and approved of the use of their names and faces.

The tentative decision does not revive the actual Jackson estate as a defendant. A 2015 decision throwing out that part



AP
In this combination photo, Wade Robson, left, and James Safechuck pose for a portrait to promote the film “Leaving Neverland” during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on Jan. 24, 2019. A California appeals court is strongly inclined to give new life to lawsuits filed by Robson and James Safechuck who accuse Michael Jackson of molesting them when they were boys. In a tentative ruling Monday, the 2nd District Court of Appeal said lawsuits from the men should be reconsidered by the trial court that dismissed them in 2017. The decision is based on a new California law that gives sex abuse victims far longer to sue.

of the lawsuit will stand. The remaining defendants are the two corporate entities, MJJ Productions, Inc., and MJJ Ventures, Inc.

Attorneys for Jackson’s estate accepted that the cases must be returned to the trial court under the new legislation, but emphasized that the ruling is unrelated to the allegations they have long denounced as demonstrably false.

“This new law extends the time for genuine victims of abuse to file legal claims,” Jackson estate attorney Howard L. Weitzman said in a statement. “The appellate court’s tentative ruling is not on the merits of Robson and Safechuck’s allegations and the court in no way said that these cases will go to trial. Neither does it reverse the 2015 rulings dismissing Robson and Safechuck’s claims against the estate, which are final and no longer subject to any appeals. We

are confident that the claims against Michael Jackson’s corporate entities will, once again, be dismissed as has happened before.”

Robson testified in Jackson’s 2005 criminal trial, in which the singer was acquitted, that Jackson had never molested or mistreated him, and Safechuck once said the same to authorities investigating Jackson, who died in 2009.

The men and their attorneys have said that stress and trauma that persisted into adulthood finally led them to accept that they had been sexually abused and go public.

Jackson’s estate is suing HBO over “Leaving Neverland,” in which Robson and Safechuck gave director Dan Reed graphic accounts of what they said were hundreds of instances of sexual abuse by Jackson over several years. A federal judge has ruled that case should be handled in private arbitration.

Chrissy Teigen, Kim Raver and more cheer 'Sesame Street'

NEW YORK (AP)—You can never be too old for "Sesame Street." The beloved children's series premiered 50 years ago this month and is still a favorite among both kids and adults. Some celebrities share their thoughts on seeing the show—and some of being on the show.

"Sesame Street" is, I think, the purest form of entertainment that has ever come through the television screens. I grew up watching 'Sesame Street.' Seeing them grow along with the changing times,

along with the impact that they've made on children who were going through different struggles, whether it was their parents divorcing or autism—they've adapted to so many different situations, but they've always had the purest heart with it. 'Sesame Street' actually makes me emotional with how caring and loving and pure and kind they've been throughout the years. It's just nothing lights up a kid's face like seeing Elmo."—TV personality Chrissy Teigen.

"I forgot that there were

All-time 'Jeopardy!' champs to vie for share of \$1.5 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The three top money winners in "Jeopardy!" history will vie for a share of \$1.5 million in January.

ABC and the quiz show's producer said Monday that Ken Jennings, Brad Rutter and James Holzhauer will compete in prime-time episodes on the network.

The first contestant to win three matches will receive \$1 million. Each runner-up will take home \$250,000.

Free e-book aims to spark talk on 'culture of health'

NEW YORK (AP)—Roxane Gay, Pam Belluck and Martha Wells are among the contributors to a free e-book story compilation supported by the public health philanthropy the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The e-book is called "Take Us to a Better Place: Stories" and is intended to create a conversation about a "culture of health." The book is a joint project between the foun-

dation, a public health philanthropy, and the packager Melcher Media.

"Take Us to a Better Place" comes out Jan. 21.

The stories touch upon everything from gentrification "and others concerns that impact our health and wellbeing."

Writers also include Calvin Baker, Yoon Ha Lee and Madeline Ashby.

The announcement was made Monday.



people there. They were so real. I really felt like I was dealing with these critters and these creatures that were created so beautifully. The puppeteers were absolutely brilliant because you forgot that they

were there. They just knew how to do it."—Comedy icon Carol Burnett, who appeared in the first broadcast and returned frequently.

"I learned how to count on 'Sesame Street.' I learned the

alphabet. While people were watching it on television, I was part of it, so that to me was really, I think, the beginning of this very creative world."—Actress Kim Raver, a former child "Sesame

Street" cast member.

AP Sesame Street's Big Bird, Sesame Workshop president of media & education and CEO Steve Youngwood with Debra Spinney and puppeteer Caroll Spinney, seated right, participate in the ceremonial lighting of the Empire State Building in honor of Sesame Street's 50th anniversary on Friday, Nov. 8, 2019, in New York.

Street" cast member.

"Jim Henson's been one of my idols ever since I was a little kid. I still have a workshop down in my basement right now where I make puppets out of foam, ping pong balls for eyes and things. I think there's something so special about making inanimate objects animate and when they can teach kids globally about not only letters and numbers and vowels but about sharing and responsibility, that's something that will endure for 50 more years realistically."—Actor Neil Patrick Harris.

Kylie Jenner sells stake in beauty empire to CoverGirl owner

NEW YORK (AP)—Kylie Jenner is selling a stake of her beauty business to CoverGirl owner Coty, in a deal that values the reality TV star's company at about \$1.2 billion.

Coty said Monday that it will pay \$600 million for a 51% stake in Kylie Cosmetics. It plans to launch more products under the Kylie brand and sell them in more countries around the world. The deal is expected to be completed early next year.

Jenner, part of the "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" reality show family, founded her company in 2015, tapping into her hundreds of millions of social media followers to



promote her popular lip liners and liquid lipsticks.

The 22-year-old, who is the youngest sister of Kim Kardashian West, will still be the face of the brand and be involved in creating new products.

"Kylie is a modern-day icon," said Peter Harf, Coty's chairman of the board.

Coty hopes that the celebrity-backed business can help

AP In this May 6, 2019, file photo, Kylie Jenner attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala in New York.

boost its sales and connect with younger shoppers under 35, a group that traditional makeup brands have struggled to reach. Coty's other brands, including Max Factor makeup and Sally Hansen nail polish, have been around for decades.

Wendy Nicholson, an analyst at Citi Research, said that the deal could help Coty become a "faster growth company." But she said a brand attached to a celebrity comes with risks, like the possibility that Jenner's popularity could fade.

Patron bruised and battered in altercation with waitress

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were getting ready to leave after dinner at a restaurant we've patronized for 15 years. I went to the ladies' room and was washing my hands when a waitress I don't care for came barging in, got in my face and started yelling at me. I tried to leave, but she wouldn't let me out of the restroom. I asked her several times to let me out, and she kept telling me no. When she finally let me go, I told the man in charge what she did.

My husband called him later, but the manager believed the waitress, who said that I started it. Another waitress who calls me her "sister" didn't answer the texts I sent her. I am very hurt that she ignored me. Clearly, she believes the waitress, too.

The restroom encounter left red marks all over my arm, but the manager didn't care. The offender has left town and moved out of state. I'm 74 and was tempted to go to the police but didn't. Now I wish I had pressed charges. Should I have?

BEATEN UP IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BEATEN UP: There is probably more to this story than what you have written, but yes, you should have notified the police. You were assaulted and falsely imprisoned in that restroom. Had you contacted the police and gone to an emergency room about the marks on your arm, you would have had proof about what the woman did to you.

DEAR ABBY: My older sister has just been diagnosed with

cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine might have protected her from it, had it been available to our generation.

A few of us were out to lunch recently, and when I asked a younger sister if her granddaughter had received the vaccine, she went off on me like I had asked something terrible. Do you think I was wrong for asking? I have grandkids and would not be offended if someone asked me that question.

CONCERNED SISTER

DEAR CONCERNED SISTER: If you and the younger sister are close, then I don't think your question was offensive. However, if you are not, because it was asked in front of friends, she may have interpreted it as an implication that her granddaughter—who is, of course, pure as the driven snow—is sexually active, which made her defensive.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of more than 20 years just purchased plane tickets to India. It's a 24-hour trip from the USA. My problem is, he is sitting in business class, while I'm in economy. We have plenty of money, but he simply doesn't want to spend it. He's older and has health concerns and mobility issues.

Am I right to feel hurt and consider his love of money may be stronger than his love for me? Or should I be content and happy I'm going to a beautiful country?

FEELING LIKE SECOND RATE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR FEELING: Of course you should be happy that you will be visiting a beautiful country. Content, not so much. You have a right to be upset at your penny-pinching husband for providing less-comfortable accommodations for you than he has arranged for himself on that long flight. Upgrade your seat! You have a right to put your foot down and make clear that the two of you either sit together or he'll be sitting first-class in the doghouse.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis



Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

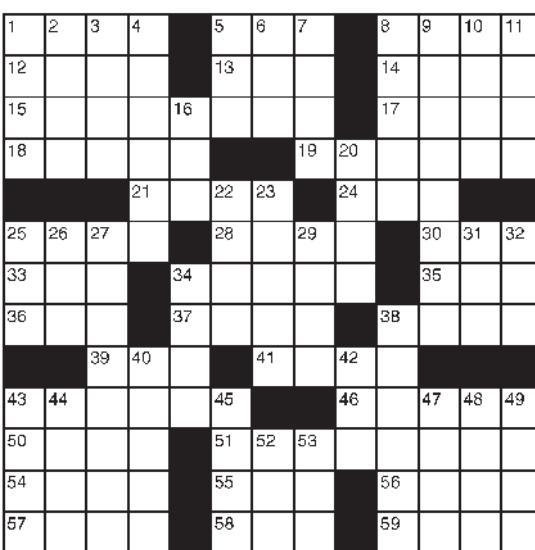
By Eugene Sheffer

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|---------------------------|----|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | 38 | Match parts | 59 Ukr. and Lith., once | 11 Taverns |
| 1 Fed. work-place monitor | 39 | Roth svs. plan | 16 Belief | 20 Take it easy |
| 5 Sailor | 41 | "Phooey!" | 22 Gullets | 23 Relin-quish |
| 8 No neatnik | 43 | Casual pants | 25 Obese | 26 Fib |
| 12 Life stories | 46 | Like Santa's laundry | 27 Multifunc-tional, as a | printer |
| 13 Altar affir-mative | 50 | "The game —!" | 4 In dream-land | 29 Bring up |
| 14 — Bora (Afghan region) | 51 | Tiny, as a town | 5 Martini liquor | 31 Yoga pad |
| 15 Short joke | 54 | Found-ered | 6 Praise in verse | 32 "Pyg-malion" monogram |
| 17 Done with | 55 | "A pox upon thee!" | 7 Bjorn of tennis fame | 34 Thailand, once |
| 18 Road curves | 57 | Poolroom sticks | 8 Portly | 38 Pub perches |
| 19 Thin porridges | 58 | Rocker Rose | 9 Prized person | 40 Skating spots |
| 21 TV trophy | | | 10 Pitcher Hershiser | 42 Fireplace residue |
| 24 Timetable abbr. | | | | 43 Platter |
| 25 Envelope part | | | | 44 Jacob's brother |
| 28 Broad-casts | | | | 45 Couch |
| 30 Texter's "Wow!" | | | | 47 Raw materials |
| 33 Have the flu | | | | 48 Despot |
| 34 Lovable | | | | 49 Slangy OKs |
| 35 Catch red-handed | | | | 52 Prohibit |
| 36 — Aviv | | | | 53 Snaky fish |
| 37 Actress Fisher | | | | |

Solution time: 23 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 11-20



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5956 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashley Fink, 33; Dan Byrd, 34; Joel McHale, 48; Bo Derek, 63.

Happy Birthday: Opportunity is heading your way. Going after what you want will put you in a position to earn more and to handle your financial situation responsibly. Choose to live a minimalist lifestyle. The stress release will do wonders for your health and encourage you to put an end to bad habits and poor influences. Choose the path that lifts you up. Your numbers are 9, 12, 20, 24, 33, 42, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do and be your very best. Make improvements that will add to your confidence and encourage you to take on new ventures and fine-tune the skills you have to offer. Show someone you love how much you care and what your intentions are. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change will energize you. Attend a networking function or get involved in something that gives you a different perspective on life and the options available to you. A partnership looks promising and will offer something that will change your life. **★★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will impress some people with your charm and chatter, but not everyone. Expect someone to call your bluff if you brag or make false statements. Play it safe to avoid being put in an awkward position. **★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may have trouble with one of your peers if you try to mix business with pleasure. Set

boundaries and do what's expected of you, and success will be yours. Use your intellect when dealing with sensitive issues. **★★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Having fun at someone's expense will make you look bad. It's essential to be fair when dealing with others if you want to avoid trouble or a change that may not favor you. Focus on self-improvement, not trying to change others. **★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your timing is off, especially when it comes to personal or domestic situations. Too much of anything will lead to trouble or send the wrong message. Don't act on hearsay, spread rumors or get involved in excessive pastimes. **★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Live and learn. Stand back and observe what everyone is doing. Don't make decisions because someone is pressuring you. A professional change should be carefully considered if it has the potential to upset your lifestyle or relationship with someone special. **★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change at home will ease your stress. Strive to live within your means and set your priorities to mirror what makes you feel good and brings you the satisfaction you deserve. It's time to put your needs first. **★★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will have to navigate your way through sensitive issues if you want to avoid being caught up in someone's drama. Stick to the truth and be a good listener, but refrain from interfering. Take better care of your health. **★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may have trouble with one of your peers if you try to mix business with pleasure. Set

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A positive change is heading your way. Your hard work will pay off, and the ideas you have will be well-received. You can expect a boost from an unlikely source. Embrace a chance of a lifetime that is heading your way. **★★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Slow down and think matters through. Don't let anger set in, or mistakes will happen. Look at what you can do to help others without jeopardizing your position or your health and well-being. Avoid unpredictable people and situations. **★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be faced with too many options. When uncertainty sets in, take a step back and observe how everyone responds. Let your intuition guide you, and you'll end up doing what's best. **★★**

Birthday Baby: You are industrious, engaging and worldly. You are intense and caring.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 |
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| 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| 7 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 |
| 8 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 7 |

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE AORTA

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This is an offer to sell real property located in Lot. No. 3144, T.D. 397 in Rota specifically described as follow:

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Total Area: 5,000 sq. m. of undecided interest within this lot

Description: This property is in the Tatgua area, and ideal for residential or commercial development. It is conveniently located between Songsong and Sinaplao Village and about half a mile from Teteto Beach and nearby Tatgua Beach area leading to Swimming Hole.

Price: The highest bid received based on the Appraisal Report on September 8, 2017

Should you be interested, please let us know so we can provide you more details about the subject property as well as preferred terms and conditions of the property owner. We can also facilitate and assist you, should you wish to conduct business feasibility and due diligence on the said property.

You may contact us at email charles_manglona@hotmail.com and mobile no 1-670-287-9877. We hope to do business with you.

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| | |
|-----------|-------------|
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Classified Ads

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

CIRRUS PRINCIPAL CUMULUS

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Find today's solution in classified section

Chiefs beat Chargers, stay on top of AFC West



M E X I C O

CITY (AP)—Daniel Sorenson picked off Philip Rivers' fourth interception at the goal line with 18 seconds to play, and the Kansas City Chiefs stayed on top of the AFC West with a 24-17 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers on Monday night at Azteca Stadium.

Patrick Mahomes passed for 182 yards and hit Travis Kelce for his only touchdown, while LeSean McCoy and Darrel Williams rushed for touchdowns as the Chiefs (7-4) hung on to win the fourth regular-season NFL game played in Mexico despite a few problems with Azteca's grass field and a one-sided first half favoring the Chargers (4-7), who racked up 312 yards without a touchdown.

After throwing his second interception of the season in the first half, Mahomes led two sharp scoring drives in the third quarter with help from Kelce, who caught seven passes for 92 yards. The Chiefs held Los Angeles to eight points in the second half, and Sorenson grabbed Rivers' underthrown pass to Austin Ekeler at the goal line to secure the Chiefs' 10th win over Los Angeles in 11 meetings.

Rivers passed for 353 yards during his first four-interception game since November 2016 for the Chargers, whose playoff hopes are nearly dead after five losses in seven games. Keenan Allen caught his first TD pass since Week 3 in the third quarter, but the Chargers had three inept drives in the scoreless fourth quarter.

On the Bolts' last gasp, Mike Williams made a spectacular 50-yard catch with 44 seconds to play. Los Angeles reached the Kansas City 14 before Rivers' final mistake. Rivers, who turns 38 next month, has thrown seven interceptions in the Chargers' last two games.

One year after the NFL called off a game at Azteca Stadium on short notice because of poor field conditions, these teams played an entertaining game in the 7,200-foot elevation and on the Azteca grass, which yielded several significant divots from sharp stops or changes of direction.

The Rams and Chiefs were scheduled to play here last season, but severe damage to the turf field compelled the NFL to relocate the game to Los Angeles on six days' notice.

Azteca removed its hybrid turf and installed natural grass this year, and the field had been untouched since Club América's last home soccer game Nov. 2. The grounds crew came onto the field at



halftime and during timeouts in the second half to attend to the worst spots.

The NFL and the stadium still threw an impressive party for 76,252 of Mexico's football-loving fans, who packed the arena and mostly supported the Chargers, the nominal home team.

Although the teams spent less than 48 hours in Mexico's capital city, the NFL has deep roots among fans around the country. Commissioner Roger Goodell met Monday with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador while the league and the federal government are considering extending the Mexico game series beyond its current deal through 2021.

The game was particularly

special to Chargers cornerback Michael Davis, the son of a U.S. immigrant from Mexico City. Davis got to play in front of his grandparents for the first time.

But the Chargers trailed 10-9 at halftime despite outgaining Kansas City 312-109 and making five drives into Chiefs territory. Rivers threw two interceptions and Michael Badgley missed a 40-yard field goal attempt while making three others, wasting a defensive effort that included Rayshawn Jenkins picking off Mahomes.

Tyreek Hill left the field with a right hamstring injury after the Chiefs' second offensive series, although it didn't appear to be caused by the turf. The speedster watched the second

half from the sideline.

Tyrann Mathieu's 35-yard interception return set up McCoy's 6-yard TD run for the game's first touchdown in the second quarter. After Williams scored on the Chiefs' opening drive of the second half, Mahomes hit Kelce with a picture-perfect 23-yard TD throw on the next drive.

Rivers and Allen answered with a TD connection late in the third quarter and a 2-point conversion.

No offers, invites for Kaepernick

In the aftermath of Colin Kaepernick's Saturday workout, some in league circles have suggested that nothing will change. For now, nothing has changed.

Per a league source, Kaepernick's representatives have not heard from any teams with either an invitation to work out privately or an offer to sign a contract.

It's no surprise, even if the league's intentions were genuine and pure (Kaepernick's camp suspected from the outset that they were not), no team had invited Kaepernick to work out privately or had offered him a contract in the 32 months since he became a free agent.

And so the impasse continues, whatever the reason. Some will think he's not good enough. Others think that his presence will be too much of a distraction for a second or third-string option on the roster. Others wonder whether he truly wants to play.

Regardless, if the league tru-

ly wants to help him (and after the events of the past week the league may not want to help him any longer), the way to do it is to work the back channels and do a deal with a team to give him a shot.

No decision yet on Newton

In Charlotte, Cam Newton's future in Carolina will depend on how well he recovers from a foot injury.

Panthers owner David Tepper said in a meeting with reporters Monday the organization won't decide on Newton's long-term future until after they determine if the quarterback has fully healed from a Lisfranc injury in his left foot, one that resulted in him being placed on injured reserve earlier this season.

Tepper said he does not know if Newton plans to have surgery.

Newton, 30, played only two games for the Panthers this season before the team decided to shut him down.

The 2015 league MVP is slated to cost \$21.1 million under next year's salary cap, but the team could save \$19 million if they cut him or trade him.

Garrett suspension appeal

Browns star defensive end Myles Garrett will make his case to the NFL to have his indefinite suspension reduced on Wednesday.

Garrett was banned indefinitely by the league on Friday for striking Pittsburgh quarterback Mason Rudolph with a helmet during the closing seconds of Cleveland's 21-7 victory.

Garrett requested to attend the appeal hearing in New York and plans to be there. His request will be heard by former NFL player James Thrash. He and Pro Football Hall of Famer Derrick Brooks are jointly appointed by the league and the Players Association to hear such appeals.

Browns defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi is having his one-game ban heard Monday.

Ogunjobi was suspended for shoving Rudolph to the ground, escalating a wild brawl between the AFC North rivals that began with Garrett ripping off the QB's helmet, wildly swinging it and connecting with the top of his head. Rudolph was not seriously injured.

USMNT's must-win Nations League finale vs Cuba

The scenario is simple for the U.S. men's national team ahead of Tuesday's clash with Cuba (7:30 p.m. ET): Gregg Berhalter's side will finish top of Group A with a victory, and only a victory. Period. It's as simple as that.

Friday's victory over Canada righted the wrongs of last month's defeat north of the border and laid the foundation for the Americans to reach the semifinals in the inaugural CONCACAF Nations League, provided they take care of business in George Town, Cayman Is-

lands, in what is set to be the final game of Berhalter's first calendar year in charge. Despite trailing Canada (+6 goal differential) by three points heading into Friday, the Yanks (+8) already have the tiebreaker in their favor.

Jordan Morris, Gyasi Zardes (twice) and Aaron Long scored to give the USMNT its 4-1 triumph over their northern neighbors. More importantly, it was a largely dominant display after going 1-0 up inside two minutes and carrying a

3-0 lead into halftime.

The USMNT will once again be without Christian Pulisic (hip injury), leaving the attacking options on the roster quite thin. Morris, who got a goal and an assist against Canada, will likely start on the left again, with Sebastian Lletget and Paul Arriola playing centrally and on the right respectively. Zardes is the presumed starter up top, unless Berhalter opts for the youthful inexperience of Josh Sargent in a must-win game.

Berhalter appears to have settled on a pretty consistent backline, with Sergiño Dest and Aaron Long manning the right side and John Brooks and, at least on Friday, Tim Ream on the left. Weston McKennie's place deep in midfield has been cemented for quite some time, but he's partnered close to a half-dozen players alongside him this year alone. The 21-year-old Schalke midfielder was stellar against Canada, frequently starting counter-attacks and carrying the ball into the final third.



George's trey helps Clippers edge Thunder



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paul George hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 25 seconds left, lifting the Los Angeles Clippers over the Oklahoma City Thunder 90-88 on Monday night to improve to 8-1 at home.

The Thunder had just tied the game at 86-all on a 3-pointer by former Clipper Danilo Gallinari before Chris Paul made two free throws after being fouled by George for an 88-86 lead.

George's 3 put the Clippers ahead 89-88.

The Clippers were then called for a foul that was overturned on a challenge by coach Doc Rivers. The Thunder retained possession and Terrance Ferguson inbounded to Gallinari, whose 3-pointer missed.

George made a free throw with 0.3 seconds left to close out the game against the team that traded him to Los Angeles last summer.

The Thunder fell to 0-5 on the road.

Montrezl Harrell had 28 points and 12 rebounds off the bench to lead the Clippers. George finished with 18 points after scoring 30-plus points in his first two games of the season.

Paul scored 22 points, making 10 of 11 free throws, against his former team. Gallinari added 14 points and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, another former Clipper, had 11 points despite five fouls.

The Clippers were without Kawhi Leonard for the third straight game because of a bruised left knee.

Neither team led by more than six points in the game.

Harrell scored on back-to-back dunks, with George's alley-oop pass setting up the first one, and he scored another basket before George followed with a 3-pointer to put the Clippers ahead 75-70.

The Thunder led 79-78 on a basket by Dennis Schroder before Harrell dominated the final 2:44.

Harrell scored eight straight points to give Los Angeles an 86-83 lead.

The Thunder led 59-54 on Paul's 3-pointer in the third. The Clippers revived themselves with a 12-5 run.

Rockets 132, Trail Blazers 108

In Houston, James Harden scored 36 points, Russell Westbrook had 28 points and a triple-double, and the Rockets coasted to their eighth straight win after dominating the Portland Trail Blazers.

Westbrook had 13 rebounds and 10 assists for his third triple-double of the season and the 141st of his career after sit-



AP
Los Angeles Clippers' Paul George (13) shoots against the Oklahoma City Thunder during the first half of an NBA game, Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, in Los Angeles.

got all of his career-high 16 points in the fourth quarter and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 15 as the Raptors posted their biggest margin of victory of the season and remained unbeaten in five home games. They also ended a two-game skid against the Hornets.

Marvin Williams scored 14 points, Bismack Biyombo and Miles Bridges each had 13, and Devonte' Graham 11 as Charlotte allowed its highest point total of the season and lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Pacers 115, Nets 86

In New York, Aaron Holiday had career highs with 24 points and 13 assists, Domantas Sabonis added 16 points and a career-high 18 rebounds, and Indiana cruised over Brooklyn.

Justin Holiday chipped in 20 points while T.J. Warren added 19 for the Pacers, who snapped a two-game losing streak.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 28 points and Jarrett Allen finished with 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who played without Kyrie Irving for a second straight game and were held to their lowest point total of the season.

Knicks 123, Cavaliers 105

In New York, Julius Randle scored 30 points, Marcus Morris Sr. added 23 and the Knicks beat Cleveland.

R.J. Barrett added 15 points and Damyean Dotson had 11 for New York.

Kevin Porter Jr. led Cleveland with 18 points. Collin Sexton and Alfonzo McKinie each had 14.

ting out to rest in Houston's last game on Saturday night.

The Rockets led by double digits for most of this one on a night they got starters Clint Capela and Danuel House back after both players had missed time with injuries.

Capela added a season-high 22 points and had 20 rebounds to become the first Rocket to have at least 20 rebounds in four straight games since Hall of Famer Elvin Hayes in 1971.

Tatum shot 8 of 16 from the field and added 11 rebounds. Marcus Smart scored 17 points but left early in the fourth quarter because of a sprained right ankle.

Phoenix (7-5) was playing without starting point guard Ricky Rubio, who was out because of back spasms. Devin Booker led the Suns with 20 points and Kelly Oubre Jr. added 15.

Bucks 115, Bulls 101

In Chicago, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points and 10

rebounds, and Milwaukee beat the Bulls for its fourth straight victory.

Brook Lopez added 19 points and 10 rebounds as Milwaukee won for the eighth time in nine games. The Bucks also beat the Bulls 124-115 on Thursday in Milwaukee.

Antetokounmpo was 13 for 22 in his 13th consecutive double-double to begin the season. It's the longest active streak in the NBA.

Daniel Gafford led Chicago with 21 points in his return from the G League. Coby White had 13, and Ryan Arcidiacono finished with 12.

Timberwolves 112, Jazz 102

In Salt Lake City, Karl-Anthony Towns had seven 3-pointers and 29 points, and Minnesota handed Utah its first home loss.

Without second-leading scorer Andrew Wiggins, the Timberwolves held the Jazz to 36.8% shooting and were bolstered by Jeff Teague's 21 points and 11 assists.

Kelan Martin had seven of his 14 points in Minnesota's decisive run in the fourth quarter, and Robert Covington added 15 points.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 18 points before fouling out and Donovan Mitchell had 17 points on 5-for-24 shooting for Utah.

Raptors 132, Hornets 96

In Toronto, OG Anunoby scored a career-high 24 points before being poked in the right eye for the second time in four games. Pascal Siakam had 20 points and the Raptors routed Charlotte.

Norman Powell scored 17 points, rookie Terence Davis

Presidents Cup players want crack at Woods

AUSTRALIA—Every member of the Internationals team wants to take on Tiger Woods at the Presidents Cup, with assistant captain Geoff Ogilvy suggesting Australians Marc Leishman, Cameron Smith and former number one Jason Day are frontrunners.

Woods will be playing captain when he leads a star-studded United States against the Internationals skippered by Ernie Els in the biennial team match-play showdown at Royal Melbourne from December 12-15.

Australian Ogilvy, who played in three Presidents Cups,

said all of the 12-man had put their hand up to face the 15-time major winner, but favoured one of his fellow Australians to take on Woods.

"Jason (Day) can clearly hang with Tiger and go down the stretch with him," said Ogilvy, who with Els was a member of the losing International team at Royal Melbourne in 2011, told the Melbourne Herald Sun.

"But Cam and Leish, they have really stood up the last couple of years and they are so bought into this. Cam is bouncing out of his skin. We have 12 great players, they all

have a case. It depends on the situation of the match. It depends how the picks go too, we alternate, so Tiger could

choose who he wants to play against. There's no real control there," he added.

Woods will be the first playing captain since American Hale Irwin in the inaugural 1994 Presidents Cup after giving himself a wildcard following his record-equalling 82nd US PGA Tour title in Japan last month.

He spearheads a formidable team that features the three of the world's top four golfers in number one

Brooks Koepka, third-ranked Dustin Johnson and number four Justin Thomas.

Els has a relatively inexperienced team looking to win the event for only the second time in its 25-year history. Their sole win came at the same Royal Melbourne venue in 1998.

"The American team look like a bit of a juggernaut but we've got a good young team," Ogilvy told reporters at the course on Monday. "This is a tough place for them to play and Ernie is historically great around Royal Melbourne so he's got a lot of wisdom and the players want to win for him."

Nadal finishes season ranked No. 1

PARIS (AP)—Rafael Nadal was confirmed as the year-end world No. 1 for the fifth time after the ATP released its season-closing rankings on Monday.

The Spaniard did not make it beyond the group stage of last week's ATP Finals in London but Novak Djokovic's failure to reach the semi-finals meant Nadal closed the year with 9,985 points, 840 clear of the Serb.

Nadal draws level with rivals Djokovic and Roger Federer, who have also finished the year in top spot five times, and moves one behind six-time end-of-year number one Pete Sampras.

Nadal and Djokovic have been this year's two dominant players after winning two Majors each.

Djokovic won the Australian Open and Wimbledon with Nadal cleaning up at Roland Garros and the US Open.

Federer ends the season at number three for the second year running. The Swiss, who turned 38 in August, has cut down his Tour commitments to focus on events around Grand Slams.

He reached the semi-finals of the French Open where he lost to Nadal and the last eight at Flushing Meadows where he lost in five sets to world number 20 Gregor Dimitrov.

In between he lost an epic Wimbledon final against Djokovic, the first to be decided by a tie-break in the fifth set, suggesting that he



Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a return to Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece during their ATP World Tours Finals singles tennis match at the O2 Arena in London, Friday, Nov. 15, 2019.

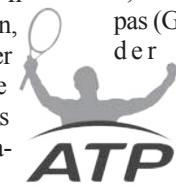
still has hopes of a 21st major title in 2020.

Dominic Thiem, who took a set off Nadal in the final of the French Open, moves up to number four after reaching the final of the ATP Finals where he lost to Stefanos Tsitsipas.

The 21-year-old Greek closes the year at number six, just behind Daniil Medvedev, after his triumph in London.

Former world number one Andy Murray began the year ranked at 240 and the prospect of retirement.

As he struggled with surgery on a hip injury and the subsequent recuperation he had slipped to 503 in September before a dramatic return to the courts, which produced



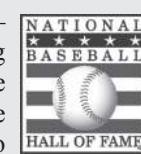
a remarkable victory at the European Open in Antwerp, lifted him to a year-end 126.

The following is the ATP year-end rankings: 1. Rafael Nadal (Spain) 9,985 pts; 2. Novak Djokovic (Serbia) 9,145; 3. Roger Federer (Switzerland) 6,590; 4. Dominic Thiem (Austria) 5,825 (+1); 5. Daniil Medvedev (Russia) 5,705 (-1); 6. Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) 5,300; 7. Alexander Zverev (Germany) 3,345; 8. Matteo Berrettini (Italy) 2,870; 9. Roberto Bautista (Spain) 2,540; 10. Gaël

Monfils (France) 2,530; 11. David Goffin (Belgium) 2,335; 12. Fabio Fognini (Italy) 2,290; 13. Kei Nishikori (Japan) 2,180; 14. Diego Schwartzman (Argentina) 2,125; 15. Denis Shapovalov (Canada) 2,050; 16. Stan Wawrinka (SUI) 2,000; 17. Karen Khachanov (Russia) 1,840; 18. Alex De Minaur (Australia) 1,775; 19. John Isner (United States) 1,770; and 20. Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria) 1,747.

Jeter among 18 newcomers on 2020 Hall of Fame ballot

NEW YORK (AP)—



Derek Jeter is among 18 newcomers on the 2020 Hall of Fame ballot. He is likely to be an overwhelming choice to join former New York Yankees teammate Mariano Rivera in Cooperstown after the reliever last year became the first unanimous pick by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Ballots are sent to more than 400 BBWAA members with at least 10 consecutive years in the organization, and a player must appear on at least 75 percent to gain election. Ballots must be mailed by Dec. 31, and results will be announced Jan. 21.

Anyone elected will be inducted July 26 along with any selections by the Hall's modern era committee, which meets and votes at San Diego on Dec. 8.

Players remain on the ballot for up to 10 years, provided they receive at least 5 percent of the vote annually.

Roy Halladay, Edgar Martinez and Mike Mussina were elected along with Rivera in the 2019 BBWAA vote.

The ballot: Bobby Abreu, Josh Beckett, Heath Bell, Barry Bonds, Eric Chavez, Roger Clemens, Adam Dunn, Chone Figgins, Rafael Furcal, Jason Giambi, Paul Konerko, Rafael Furcal, Bobby Abreu and Alfonso Soriano.

Holdovers include Curt Schilling, who received 60.9% last year, Roger Clemens (59.5%), Barry Bonds (59.1%) and Larry Walker (54.6%). Schilling rose from 51.2% in 2018. Walker, on the ballot for their 10th and final time this year, increased from 34.1% in 2018.

Bonds and Clemens, whose candidacies have been tainted by allegations of steroids use, are both on for the eighth time. Clemens rose from 57.3% in

Mets don't have plans to trade Syndergaard

N E W YORK—One of the most perplexing things involving the Mets over the past year were the persistent rumors that they planned to trade Noah Syndergaard. The cropped up last offseason and flew around like crazy at the trade deadline this past season.

The rumors were perplexing for a couple of reasons. The biggest one being that he is under team control through the 2021 season and no one thinks one must trade a guy with two or three seasons of team control left.

Another reason was that the Mets, on, paper anyway, have seemed like they could contend with Jacob deGrom and Noah Syndergaard at the head of a strong rotation. They need more pieces of course—the bullpen and back end of the rotation needs some help—but it's not hard to imagine the Mets being able to win with those two. And, in the event,

they need like they could contend with Jacob deGrom and Noah Syndergaard at the head of a strong rotation. They need more pieces of course—the bullpen and back end of the rotation needs some help—but it's not hard to imagine the Mets being able to win with those two. And, in the event,

A corner outfielder, Tsutsugo hit .272 this year with 29 homers and 79 RBI. He has a .285 average with 205 homers and 613 RBI during 10 seasons with Yokohama.

Under the agreement reached between Major League Baseball and Nippon Professional Baseball after the 2017 season, the posting fee to Yokohama would be 20% of guaranteed money in a major league contract through \$25 million, plus 17.5% above that through \$50 million, plus 15% over that. A supplemental fee would equal 15% of any earned bonuses, escalators and compensation from option years that are exercised or become guaranteed.

Now, let's see if the Mets actually add those couple of pieces that they need. Meanwhile, outfielder Yosuke Tsutsugo has been made available to major league teams through the posting process by Yokohama of Japan's Central League.

Major league clubs have until 5 p.m. EST on Dec. 19 to negotiate with Tsutsugo, who turns 28 on Nov. 26.

Gurriel stays with Astros

Yuli Gurriel has agreed to an \$8.3 million, one-year contract with the Houston Astros, a \$300,000 raise from his originally scheduled salary for next season.

Gurriel hit .298 and set career bests with 31 homers and 104 RBI as the Astros won

the American League pennant for the second time in three seasons. He hit .310 with one homer and five RBI in the seven-game World Series loss to Washington.

The 35-year-old first baseman, who defected from Cuba, agreed in July 2016 to a \$47.5 million, five-year contract with the Astros that included an \$8 million salary for 2020. That deal allowed Gurriel to void the remainder of his contract when he became eligible for salary arbitration for the first time, and he reached that eligibility this offseason with 3 years, 43 days of major league service.

His new contract allows him to become a free agent after the 2020 season, preserving a right also contained in his original major league contract. It also includes the same award bonus provisions: \$100,000 for MVP, \$50,000 for second and \$25,000 for third; \$50,000 for World Series MVP, and \$25,000 each for League Championship Series MVP, Silver Slugger, Gold Glove and being selected an All-Star.

Saipan Southern, MHS Varsity sweep opening games

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

 Saipan Southern High School and Marianas High School Varsity posted similar 2-0 records during the kick-off of the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League last Thursday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Lady Dolphins played in one of the two opening matches in the competition and crushed MHS Junior Varsity on the north court, 34-10. For its second game, MHS

Varsity was paired against Grace Christian Academy and eased its way to a 42-7 triumph, also on the north court.

The second game on the north court had Saipan Southern dominating Kagman High School, 29-12, and after its opening win, the former slipped past Mt. Carmel School on the southern court, 22-21.

The Lady Knights, before the sorry defeat to the Lady Rays, also had a close match against the GCA Lady Eagles and eked out a 13-11 victory on the south court.

Agape Christian School saw action on the south court, too, and defeated MHS JV, 18-16.

SLLB meeting Saturday

The Saipan Little League Baseball will have its general membership meeting this Saturday at 1pm.

The meeting will be held at the conference room of the

Department of Public Works' ground transportation office in Lower Base.

For more information, call Mike Borja at 483-2526. (PR)

CAROL

From Page 28

returned to Saipan early this month after coming from a series of ITF World Tour tournaments in Australia, U.S., Japan, and South Korea in the last three months, will have to forfeit her opening game this Saturday.

The first CNMI player to have played in the U.S. Open Juniors had a bye in the first round of the men's open singles and would have met Race in the quarterfinals at the upper half of the draw. However, Lee is set to return to Saipan on Saturday at 4am and her game is scheduled at 9:30am.

Race is unseeded in the

division and will face junior player Isaac Heo this Friday at the Pacific Island Club Saipan courts. Also scheduled at the top half of the draw is the first round meeting of No. 3 seed Jimin Woo and Kevin Wang this Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

At the bottom half of the draw, Schorr and Song, who won the Pacific Games gold medals in the men's team event, are seeded No. 2 and 4, respectively. Schorr has a bye in the first round and will meet the victor in the opening round game between Jun Cheol Hwang and Sam Ryu. Song, on the other hand, will duel Sean Lee.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Trench Tech's The Art of War 14 Grappling Submission Challenge will feature six different weight classes and interested participants can enter more than one division

The competition, which is open to both Gi (all belts)

and No Gi, is now open for registration for a \$20 fee for each class. Players can enter more than one division as long as it is at a heavier weight than their weight class.

For No Gi participants, weight classes include flyweight (100 lbs-134 lbs); bantamweight (135 lbs-

144 lbs); featherweight (145 lbs-160 lbs); lightweight (161 lbs-175 lbs); middleweight (176 lbs-204 lbs); and heavyweight (205 lbs and up). For Gi participants, men and women, may register

in the absolute white, blue, purple, and brown belts.

The Art of War 14 will be

final quarter.

RNV Best Deal never made headway in the last period, as Ronald Rueda, who finished the third canto with 30 points, was held to 3 points and the team just traded baskets with TDI.

With the loss, RNV Best

Deal will just play in the consolation game against Triple J this Saturday at 6pm. Game 1 of the finals series between TDI and Josten 1 will start at 7pm.

TDI 99—Velasco 26, Ra-

Meanwhile, action in the girls high school caging resumed yesterday with MHS Varsity hoping to keep its unbeaten record as it faced Kagman in the first game on the north court and Mt. Carmel in the third and last match. Also scheduled on the north court was the duel between MHS JV and Saipan Southern.

For their second game yesterday, the Lady Rays were pitted against Agape in the last match on the south court. Before battling Saipan Southern, Agape was also slated to meet Mt. Carmel, while GCA had only one match last night as it squared off against Kagman.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
A Saipan Southern High School player, left, surveys the floor, as she faces a Mt. Carmel School defender during their game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League last Thursday at the MHS Gymnasium.

Art of War 14 offers 6 weight classes

held on Dec. 14 at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan with matches starting at 9:30am.

Spectators will be charged a \$5 fee at the door and cash prizes will be up for grabs throughout the event.

For interested individuals, call or text in your name and weight to 670-783-4662 to register.

basto 20, Reyes 20, Barbo 17, Sefich 8, Pollisco 7.

RNV Best Deal 87—R.
Rueda 33, Agustin 15, Mortos 12, Baul 8, Taraya 6, Tagle 4, Padolina 2, Jomaguiao 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-26, 53-43, 81-70, 99-87.

KANOA

From Page 28

as she beat a couple of TanHoldings defenders in a foot race and unloaded a shot just inside the penalty area. TanHoldings goalie Judy Ann Andebor stepped forward to grab the ball, but was too late, as the leather rolled in, giving Kanoa the lead in the 14th minute.

Two minutes after Green's conversion, Joyce made it a 2-0 advantage for Kanoa. Joyce attacked from left center and kicked the ball, which was then deflected by Jenny Ann Capayas, who turned back and used her body to block the former's attempt. Despite getting denied, Joyce stayed at the same spot where she got the ball back and moved in closer before taking another shot—a cross that headed into the TanHoldings goalie's right upper side and hit her hand before it volleyed into the left upper part of the goal.

Kanoa kept the 2-0 lead at halftime, as TanHoldings' re-



Kanoa Football Club players and coach Irish Pagarao, standing right, gather for a group photo after beating TanHoldings Football Club in the girls U16 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

peated attempts to score did not materialize with goalie Sharmaine Francisco playing steady on defense and frustrating their opponent's attackers.

After failing to get the elusive first goal, TanHoldings finally hit its target in the 43rd

minute. The goal came from a right corner kick with the ball dropping in front of Stephanie Flores inside the 8-yard line (left side) and with Francisco leaning to her right, the TanHoldings player was left open for the short shot.

Flores' goal seemed to have lifted the spirits of her teammates, but just when TanHoldings players' morale has started to go up, Joyce scored, giving Kanoa the insurance.

The striker made her second goal just a few seconds

after Flores' shot. Joyce went to center spot to restart the game and with the smaller Kaithlyn Chavez in front of her, the Kanoa player caught everyone flatfooted when she hit the ball hard toward the goal. Joyce's lob partially kissed the crossbar (center) before the ball headed down and into the goal with Andebor a few steps late for the save, as she earlier moved away from her post, anticipating the former to go for the easy kick because of the restart play.

Joyce celebrated with her teammates after making the dagger and Kanoa went on to keep the lead and the title victory, as TanHoldings could not cash in on opportunities to

score in the remaining 20-plus minutes of the game.

The championship was Kanoa's third straight in the age group, as no other squad has won the division since Northern Mariana Islands Football Club switched from girls U15 to U16 in 2018. Kanoa took the title in last year's spring season after a 2-1 victory in the finals over Shirley's Football Club and was leading in the fall of the same year, but the competition was shelved in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu. Then in the spring season this year, Kanoa also registered an 8-1 record to beat Southern United (7-2-1) for the division title.

2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League

FINAL TEAM STANDINGS (Unofficial)

GIRLS U16

| | 8 | 1 | 1 | 50 | 24 | 26 | 25 |
|-----------------|---|---|----|----|----|-----|----|
| Kanoa | 8 | 1 | 1 | 50 | 24 | 26 | 25 |
| Southern United | 7 | 2 | 1 | 57 | 13 | 44 | 23 |
| TanHoldings | 7 | 1 | 2 | 52 | 12 | 40 | 22 |
| Shirley's | 3 | 0 | 7 | 36 | 64 | -28 | 9 |
| MP United | 3 | 0 | 7 | 33 | 63 | -30 | 9 |
| Matansa | 0 | 0 | 10 | 18 | 70 | -52 | 0 |



Chiefs beat
Chargers,
stay on top
of AFC West

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Nadal
finishes
season
ranked No. 1

PAGE 26



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kanoa FC keeps reign

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club outclassed TanHoldings Football, 3-1, to clinch the girls U16 championship in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Kanoa finished the round-robin competition with an 8-1-1 win-draw-loss record and 25 points, just two points ahead of Southern United FC, which also prevailed in its last match of the



season after dominating MP United, 8-1. Shirley's Northern Mariana Islands Football Club topped Matansa, 9-5, in one of the final three games in the division.

Coming into the last day of the competition, Kanoa and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee, center, poses with participants in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic before umpiring their game last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Carol visits Georgia Tech

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Games gold medalist and world No. 125 Carol Lee had a short visit to another National Collegiate Athletic Association-member school in preparation for her move to the collegiate ranks.

Lee went to Georgia Tech, an NCAA Division 1 school, and she is expected to make a decision where to play next month. Earlier in September, the CNMI junior player also visited Arizona State, Louisiana State, and American University.

Before heading to Georgia Tech last Sunday, Lee was initially entered in the men's open singles competition in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic this weekend.

Lee, who won the mixed doubles (with Colin Sinclair) event in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa last summer, is seeded first in the highly-anticipated singles event that will also feature her fellow CNMI National Team players Ken Song and Robbie Schorr and head coach Jeff Race. However, Lee, who

See CAROL on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club's Paulynn Joyce, center, is hounded by TanHoldings Football Club defenders, while her teammate Lynzey Green stays close in the play during the second half of their game in the girls U16 division of the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

TanHoldings held identical 7-1-1 records, while Southern United was lurking behind at 6-2-1 slate. A draw in the Kanoa-TanHoldings tiff coupled with Southern United's victory against MP United

would have forced a three-way tie for the top spot.

Southern United played in one of the first two matches last weekend and eased past MP United, as the former anxiously waited for the results of

the Kanoa-TanHoldings game to determine its chances for the division title.

However, Southern United's win went down the drain, as Kanoa delivered in the deciding game against TanHold-

ings, breaking the hearts of its two rivals.

Lynzey Green and Paulynn Joyce scored for Kanoa with the former drawing first blood,

See KANOA on Page 27

TDI sets up finals duel with Joeten 1

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Top Development Inc., secured the second finals ticket in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League after beating RNV Best Deal, 99-87, in Game 2 of their best-of-three semis series last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Raymond Velasco powered TDI to a finals stint after firing 26 points, as they completed a sweep of the short series. Sean Rabasto and Jerome Reyes scored 20 points apiece to back up Velasco, while Darwin Barbo added 17 in the Game 2 victory that set TDI's title showdown against Joeten



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Top Development, Inc.'s Raymond Velasco, center, is up against RNV Best Deal defenders Ariel Baul, left, and Ryan Odicita during Game 1 of their semis series in the JP World caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

1. The best-of-three finals series will start this Saturday.

While TDI needed an extra five minutes to down RNV Best Deal in Game 1, 124-122, the former had an easier time defeating its opponents in Game 2. TDI led from start to finish, as the quartet of Velasco, Rabasto, Barbo, and Reyes teamed up in the clincher.

Velasco knocked in two triples and made 10 markers in the first period, while Reyes added 6 to hand TDI a 30-26 lead. Velasco was then held to one field goal in the second frame, but Barbo and Rabasto were there to steady the ship, combining for 14 markers to give TDI the double-digit margin at the break, 53-43.

Rabasto was still at it at the resumption of the game, mak-

See TDI on Page 27